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THURSDAY, MARCH 4TH, 2010

Celebrating St David!

RIGHT: Local schools throughout the Vale celebrated St David's Day this week with all the traditional aspects of Wales' national day. These pupils at Ysgol Iolo Morganwg were clearly looking forward to taking part in the day's events as the school held its eisteddfod. Photograph by Mike Wilcock.

(See next week for more St David's Day pictures from local schools).

Cowbridge by-pass restriction to go – once threat of ice is over

THE speed restriction on Cowbridge by-pass to 30mph was introduced purely as a safety measure because ice might form on the carriageway, a Vale Council officer has insisted.

The council has also confirmed that work on the viaduct has now been completed at a cost of £2.5m.

Mr Douglas Mountain from Llantwit Major contacted The GEM questioning why the restriction had been put into place, 30 years after the high rise trunk road had been constructed.

Mr Mountain asked: "Was it because of shoddy workmanship beating the 'much-publicised' deadline to complete the recent updating of this section of road?

"Has the 'new' road surface now contributed to the additional danger of ice forming – as the new signs now inform us?

"It would be nice to hear on what evidence it was necessary to impose the restriction.

"I guess it wasn't anything to do with accident statistics, as the current farce of plonking a 30mph speed limit in an otherwise perfectly safe 70mph stretch of road has got to be a lot of accident statistics waiting to happen!"

Mr Mountain added that the restriction appeared to be another example of the "good old nanny state".

The Vale Council's operational manager for highway maintenance Andrew Loosemore said: "Following a principal inspection, structural assessment and non-destructive testing, various elements of Cowbridge viaduct were found to be sub-standard.

"Remedial works were identified, which included installation of movement joints between the decks, closure of the gap between the decks, installation of new parapet fences to current standards, installation of new lighting columns, reconstruction and strengthening of verges, installation of new waterproofing and carriageway surfacing, refurbishment of the structural bearings and major concrete repairs to the piers.

"These works were completed within the contract period and at a cost of just over £2.5m."

Mr Loosemore said that minor surface water drainage problems have since been identified, which are not unusual with the form of 'plug movement joint' installed, and the consultant commissioned by the council to undertake the design and supervision of the main works is currently developing a solution.

He added: "The 30mph speed limit was introduced in the interests of highway safety during the very cold winter period, where it was likely that ice would form on the carriageway.

"This restriction will be removed as soon as the threat of ice is no longer likely."

'Flying Vet' is bailed

'FLYING VET' Maurice Kirk appeared at the Vale Magistrates Court in Barry on February 24.

Mr Kirk (64) of Tynewydd Road, Barry, has been charged with using threatening words or behaviour likely to cause alarm or distress at Caswell Clinic, Bridgend, on February 10, and resisting two policemen in the execution of their duty.

Mr Kirk was granted bail until April 28.

'Ysgol Iolo Morganwg CAN cope with rising demand' says council

THE Vale Council has moved to address concerns that Ysgol Iolo Morganwg will be unable to cope with demand from parents who are seeking a Welsh medium education.

A temporary classroom is likely to be sited at the school in Cowbridge, enabling it to accommodate all the pupils who wish to start in September.

Fears were expressed at a recent town council meeting that there may not be sufficient capacity to cope with a large intake.

Paula Ham, the head of strategic planning and performance at the Vale Council, told The GEM:

"It is likely that all applications for admission to Iolo in September 2010 can be accommodated.

"A planning application to locate a demountable on the Iolo site has been submitted. If approved, it will increase the number of pupils that can be accommodated."

In the long term, there is the strong possibility that more Welsh medium starter schools will open in the Vale, easing the burden on existing ones.

Paula Ham explained: "We are currently consulting on the establishment of new Welsh medium starter schools in Llantwit Major and Barry, although it is not proposed that either be attached to a junior school."

Alun Cairns, the Conservative candidate for the Vale, welcomed the fact that all youngsters would be accommodated.

"This is fantastic news. As a governor of the school, I am delighted that Ysgol Iolo will now have the space needed.

"The authority and governors have shown excellent commitment to Welsh medium education in general, and to Ysgol Iolo specifically."

Mr Cairns added: "The need for a new classroom at Ysgol Iolo, is testament to the success of the school and of the authority's support.

"The way in which children from Welsh speaking and non-Welsh speaking backgrounds learn together is first rate.

"Within a short period of time, all are as fluent in Welsh as each other. The children soak up the language.

"A new facility in Llantwit Major is an exciting prospect for the long-term future of Welsh medium education and for choice in schools."

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Llantwit Major tax precept questions

Congratulations to our local newspaper on covering Llantwit Major Town Council's tax precept rise so fully, and as we are an open society, I would defend The GEM's right to report matters which concern the public purse.

Although I am not against a modest increase when needed, some of the comments made to defend this additional charge cause me some concern.

The statement "*if they are on low income, they are entitled to council tax benefit*" doesn't allow for capital amounts which reduce benefits.

This particularly applies to people who have put money aside for a rainy day, or other reason.

The comparison of the increase and a cup of coffee costing £1.50 is totally irrelevant to people on low income or senior citizens who, during this severe winter, have sometimes to choose between **eating or heating**, not cappuccino or coffee latte.

This, in my opinion, also applies to the comment "*We pay less than the people in Cowbridge*".

If you live in Llantwit Major, which the precept increase covers, you will pay over £50 per annum for an extra tier of government.

Quite frankly, it is difficult to understand:

(**1**) Why the advice of our very efficient Town Clerk, Mrs Stokes, who is the person who should know if we have sufficient funding or not, and the Chair of the buildings and recreation committee was ignored.

(**2**) Do we have monies 'ring fenced' and in our reserves?

B Davies, Llantwit Major

No magic bullet for the economy

FURTHER to the announcement on Friday that the INEOS ChlorVinyls factory in Barry will close with a loss of 40 jobs, I'd like to submit a few comments.

This has been a truly miserable winter for the economy in general, and the jobs market in the Vale particularly.

Coming hard on the heels of the Bosch plant closure on the other side of the Vale, it is yet another demonstration that the Assembly and Westminster governments are barking up the wrong tree with their economic strategy for Wales.

Large single investments from overseas businesses may bring big headlines, but as this new announcement proves, they don't necessarily bring sustainable long-term employment.

Instead of looking for a 'magic bullet' solution to the Welsh economy, it is time for us to invest in our key strengths – the knowledge held in our universities and the entrepreneurial spirit and enterprise of local businesses.

We will never be able to offer the cheapest workforce in the world, and nor should we want to. It is high time our governments stopped trying to sell us in that way.

Eluned Parrott, (Liberal Democrat candidate, Vale of Glamorgan)

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THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (*in certain circumstances*), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters brief and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

Litter and the Vale: 'open your eyes to the evidence of pollution'

THE council's Mr Parish (The GEM, February 25) seems to be confusing the attainment of sample, bureaucratic targets with reality.

Come on, Mr Parish, open your eyes to the real, visible evidence of litter pollution in the Vale county borough.

As one of your earlier correspondents noted, a drive along the A4222 north of Cowbridge, in the vicinity of the county boundary, usually results in an unfavourable comparison between the often relatively litter-free Rhondda Cynon Taf-maintained roadside verges and the more littered Vale of Glamorgan roadsides.

It may have been coincidence, but after The GEM published the letter from an Aberthin resident a few weeks ago, there was an intensive litter pick on this stretch of road, in the Vale area, a day or so later.

Mr Parish makes the point about a lack of resource contributing to the problem of visible litter in the Vale.

Lack of resource is a problem in every area of life, personal, business and government.

Is he suggesting that RCT is not limited in its resources, or are our neighbours in RCT more litter conscious than Vale residents?

Is littering a part of the unique Vale psyche, Mr Parish?

Finally, Mr Parish, I have seen refuse/recycling escaping from your council's vehicles.

I am sure you made your comment in the utmost good faith, but you are incorrect in what you write.

GJ Taylor, Ystradowen

Importance of trees to Cadoxton

MATTHEW IRELAND, aged 12, the Barry Comprehensive schoolboy, is a local hero for his spirited campaign to save the four majestic lime trees in Belle Vue Terrace from the axe (The GEM, February 18).

On a recent walk, I too was dismayed to see that the monkey puzzle tree, which graced the grounds of Cadoxton House, had been cut down.

The tree, which for more than a century gave pleasure to Cadoxton folk, had avoided destruction during the war, when the nearby railway sidings were the target of German air raids.

As Matthew says, the surviving lime trees are important to local wildlife, especially birds. Matthew can add my name to his petition to save the lime trees.

Readers may be interested to know that Cadoxton House, built in 1891, was the residence of Dr Edward Treharne (d 1905) who had the distinction of playing in the first Wales v England rugby international match.

John Jewel Williams, the builder (d 1912), a veteran of the Siege of Sebastopol, later resided there.

Jewel Williams, who came from Devon, also built the Royal Hotel in Barry Road and Jewel Street.

In the 1940s and 50s, Cadoxton House was the home and surgery of Dr Monro, a well-liked and much-respected doctor in Cadoxton.

Brian C Luxton, Barry

Heavy fines the answer to litter

AS someone who, with other people in our village, carries out weekly litter picks, I am fully aware of the slovenly habits of members of the public who think it is perfectly acceptable to just dump their litter out of the car window.

Cans, bottles, cigarette packets, fast food packaging, tissues, newspapers; the list is endless. It is unbelievable that there are even some who tie their litter neatly in a Tesco bag before tossing it in the hedge.

What on earth do they think is going to happen to their waste?

A year ago, the author Bill Bryson highlighted that in Britain we live in attractive areas which are increasingly being spoilt by the thoughtless dumping of litter.

As in countries like the US, Canada and Australia, I would like to see large, clear signs reminding drivers that littering is an offence.

The only sign I have seen locally is a small blue sign near the Waterton roundabout .

Unfortunately, litter around the sign tends to advertise the ineffectiveness of this notice. Maybe a very large fine, as in the US, would also help to detract offenders.

Finally, I would suggest that in addition to county councils keeping the main roads free of litter, the community councils could help by forming a network of people willing to add their weight to solving the problem in the towns and villages.

M Shave, Colwinston

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MARCH 11)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
04 Thur	08.47	10.2	21.07	9.8
05 Fri	09.18	9.6	21.37	9.3
06 Sat	09.56	9.0	22.22	8.6
07 Sun	10.42	8.2	23.11	7.9
08 Mon	11.38	7.4		
09 Tues	00.22	7.3	13.03	6.9
10 Wed	01.58	7.2	14.51	7.3
11 Thur	03.20	7.5	15.58	7.6

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide tablespecific to their location.

USEFUL VALE INFORMATION

CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555111
(Emergency number 999)
COASTGUARD 01792 366534
FLOOD LINE 0845 9881188
HELPLINES
Alcohol and drugs:
Drinkline **0800 9178282**
National Drugs Helpline **0800 776600**
DASH **01656 650686**
SSAFA – Forces Help for serving and ex-service men, women and families **01656 785435**
RAF Association Welfare Officer 01495 249522/01446 740522
SAMARITANS (emotional support) **01656 662333**
VALE WOMEN'S AID 01446 744755
MENTAL DISTRESS
(Mental Health Matters) **01656 767045**
Mental Health Helpline:
Freephone **0800 132 737**
MIND in the Vale of Glamorgan
01446 730792 or www.mindinthevale.org.uk
CHILDLINE 0800 1111 - www.childline.org.uk
Rape Crisis Centre 08451 221331.
RSPCA 0300 123 0744. MIND 01446 746191.
AIDS helplines 0800 567123.
Child abuse – NSPCC 0808 800 5000.
Alcoholics Anonymous – (24 hours) 0845 7697555.
Drug Aid (24 hours) 02920 881000.
Inroads Drugs Project – 42, Holton Road, Barry. 01446 404040.
Vale Victim & Witness Support -
Barry Magistrates Court, Thompson Street, Barry CF63 4SX. 01446 730704.

MP & AM's SURGERY TIMES

To make a surgery appointment with John Smith MP, contact the constituency office (01446) 743769. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

To make a surgery appointment with Jane Hutt AM, contact the constituency office (01446) 740981. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

CITIZENS' ADVICE

At 119 Broad Street, Barry. Drop in Mon-Fri (not Weds) 9.30am - 4.30am (Wed 11am-6pm); at Llantwit Major Youth Centre, Station Road 9.30am - 11.30am Mon and Fri. Telephone advice 0845 120 3756. *Further information www.adviceguide.org.uk*

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Police - Gladstone Road, Barry; for normal service 01446 734451; in emergency 999. Fire - South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Pontyclun 01443 232000; in emergency 999. Coastguard - Regional Office, Swansea 01792 366534; in emergency 999.

Gas - Gas emergency number 0800 111999.

Electricity - Emergency 0800 0520400; Water - Emergency 0800 052 0130; supply 0800 0520130.

Trading Standards Consumer Advice Centre - Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry; hours of opening for telephone enquiries - Monday to Thursday, 8.30am-5pm; Friday 8.30am-4.30pm on 01446 700111. For personal visits, Monday to Thursday 9am-4.30pm. Friday 9am-4pm. Recycling Hotline, 01446 700111.

To report a fly tipping incident - 01446 700111.

HOSPITALS

The Barry Hospital - visiting 2pm-8pm each day, 01446 704000. Llandough - Wards have individual visiting times. For details call 029 2071 1711. Princess of Wales - 01656 752752/668090.

For Out Of Hours Chemists, call the Vale of Glamorgan Local Health Board on 02920 350600, or NHS Direct Wales on 0845 4647.

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Arrests after police break up street battle in Llantwit Major

by JAYNE ISAAC

POLICE are still investigating a street battle between rival groups in Llantwit Major on Saturday, February 6.

It broke out in the Square outside the Tudor Tavern and then rolled up the street to the King's Head, drawing in more people.

Police reinforcements had to be drafted in from across the Vale including officers on duty at Cardiff Airport.

Details of the fight were given to Llantwit Major Town Council by Sgt Nick Kihilberg, who said it took place on a rugby international night.

"The incident has been partly captured on the CCTV camera at Boverton Road as it came around the corner. We are still looking at CCTV footage and have made a number of arrests, including two more today," he reported.

Sgt Kihilberg stated that manning levels were always increased on international days. The incident began when people from outside Llantwit Major starting pulling up some of the shrubs outside one of the pubs. Some of the locals asked them not to do it. People had been drinking. There was a bit of a free-for-all. The incident generated at least seven crimes and assaults and arrests have been made and more will be made. Some people will end up being charged with disorder."

Coun Dave Lane asked if the police had been outnumbered by those involved in the fight.

The sergeant replied that they were outnumbered at almost every incident they attended.

"But there's always help at hand. Officers make a dynamic assessment and can call for back-up from Barry and Bridgend. Airport staff can also turn up.

Officers are trained to make sure that they assess it correctly. Officers make their way in from other places. We always have sufficient officers there at the end of an incident," he explained.

Asked about the CCTV footage, Sgt Kihilberg said that although the camera was outside the Precinct, it could see down East Street as far as the bend by the King's Head.

"Although the incident started by the Tudor Tavern, it carried on up the street and as it came around the bend, it was captured on the CCTV."

Coun Colin Faulkner asked if there would be any benefit in having another camera at the Square and Sgt Kihilberg agreed, but there were cost implications.

"When we have an incident like this going on, the CCTV operators zoom in and they saw people running off down a lane and the operators were able to direct police to go after them."

Coun Gwyn John said that he was concerned about the incident, because one of those who was beaten up was a woman.

"She had a hiding. She went in to support her husband. I understand that there were eight outsiders involved in this fight."

Coun John suggested that the town council write to the Safer Vale Partnership about a new camera.

"The Precinct area was chosen for CCTV before, although the Square was the second choice. We should press for a camera at the Square.

"The more weight we can put behind this, the better. It would help us tackle problems with rowdyism in the town."

The council agreed to take this up with the Safer Vale Partnership.

Police have now issued an appeal for witnesses who were in Llantwit Major town centre at The Square, East Street or Boverton Road between 9.30pm and 1pm on Saturday February 6 and may have seen "a number of people fighting in the street".

Two men from Kenfig Hill have been arrested and released on police bail.

PC Jamie Williamson said that this was a "very serious incident that would not be tolerated."

Anyone with information is asked to contact him or Llantwit Major Police Station on 101 or ring Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

'Planning is big Vale issue of the future' says councillor

A councillor has warned that proposed housing developments in the rural Vale could be 'the thin end of the wedge' in years to come.

People close to Tremains Farm, where 169 houses might be built, and in St Athan where Redrow hope to build 100 houses are worried about the effect development might have on their areas.

Llantwit Major town councillor Gwyn John told The GEM that the local development plan LDP envisaged 7,500 to 8,000 homes being built in the Vale between 2011 and 2026.

He said: "Recent proposals could be the thin end of the wedge.

"Later this year candidate sites will be announced under the LDP plan, and they could affect anywhere in the Vale.

"If there is a planning application people are informed by the council

"As a councillor I keep a close eye on any planning and if anyone wants to discuss something with me I am always available."

Coun John, pointed out that houses at Tremains Farm remained 'in the melting pot' because it was dependant on Metrix going ahead.

"I understand Metrix is very confident it will all go ahead, but quite honestly we don't know."

Coun John added that he expected planning issues across the Vale to become clearer after the general election.

Woman driver is injured in two-car crash at Llandow

ABOVE:
The scene after the collision on the main road near Llandow Trading Estate on Monday.

THERE were traffic delays on the B4270 Llantwit Major to Cowbridge and Llysworney road on Monday morning, after a serious traffic collision.

The incident took place at just before 9am and police, the Fire Service and an ambulance quickly arrived on the scene.

Two vehicles were involved, and another car stopped at the scene. No one was trapped in any of them, but a woman was taken to the Princess of Wales Hospital with non life threatening injuries.

There were slight delays for an hour, with the police only allowing traffic to move in one direction at any one time.

Cowbridge volunteers clean up local litter

LOCAL volunteers joined a litter pick along the Three Fields footpath between Cowbridge and Llanblethian last Saturday.

The clean-up initiative was organised by the Cowbridge Transition group and supported by Tidy Towns, who supplied gloves, bags and long-handled litter pickers. Twelve black bags of rubbish were collected, as well as the remains of a home-made sledge, a sleeping bag and three large plastic drums.

Dave Owens, who joined the litter pick, said: "We can all sit and talk about the problems of litter, but actually doing something about it feels quite empowering.

"My daughter and I were happy to volunteer our time, which we spent clearing the river bank of all sorts of accumulated rubbish, leaving it as nature intended."

Rob McGhee of the Transition group, said: "It was good to see local people come together to share ideas and to tackle a local problem.

"Transition aims to see the bigger picture and we would like to get the message across that in Wales we are currently consuming too many resources.

We should be looking at ways of cutting the amount of waste we have, minimising what goes into landfill and recycling as much as possible. Wales has a target of zero waste going to landfill by 2050. Let's hope that as a community we will be ready to hit that target."

To keep in touch with the next litter pick and other Transition events, contact Rob McGhee or Dinky Kennedy, on transitioncowbridge@googlemail.com or 01446

Tory AM steps into hospital delay row

VALE Conservative candidate Alun Cairns AM is urging residents of the area to contact him if they have experienced delays in getting outpatient appointments at the Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend.

Mr Cairns has acted following a story in The GEM last week which revealed that a Cowbridge woman was having to wait 18 weeks from the time of her GP referral to actually having her first appointment with a hospital consultant.

"This lady stated quite accurately that if she lived in England, she would have been dealt with much more quickly. "I am appalled at this delay, because in England no patients at all wait longer than 13 weeks for their first appointment.

"But in Wales, almost 20 per cent of patients are waiting between 10 and 22 weeks, and most of the rest can wait up to ten weeks compared to England where 58 per cent are dealt with within a month.

"In England, only eight per cent have to wait up to 13 weeks and none wait longer, but in Wales, we even have some people waiting longer than 22 weeks – although it is a very small number.

"We spend more per head on health in Wales than they do in England and yet our results in almost every area are worse. What is going wrong? We are certainly not getting value for money here compared with over the border."

Mr Cairns said he was keen to know the extent of the problem before he raises it with the ABM Board which runs the Princess of Wales Hospital.

"It would be good to get a view of how widespread these delays are and I would urge anyone who has experienced undue delay to get in touch with me on alun@aluncairns.com or ring me on 07971-567317."

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

The mound.

National day

LLANGAN Primary School's St David's Day concert was a delightful occasion with the children in their national costumes singing Welsh songs and hymns.

It really brought back memories of my childhood at the school. Mums, dads and grandparents were there to support their children, and I was surprised how good and advanced the harpists were.

One future pupil for the school was seven-month-old Summer Farrant, looking absolutely delightful in her Welsh costume.

All credit to the teaching staff for a most entertaining concert.

Problem mound

FOLLOWING a complaint by a Treoes resident regarding the mound of earth and rock which has been deposited outside an award-winning development on the outskirts of the village, I was assured by a workman on the site that all the rubbish will be removed.

Flytipping

A FRIDGE has been deposited at the junction of the road leading to Llangan and the road leading to the A48 via Crack Hill.

Good news!

THE Vale of Glamorgan Highways department are at last cleaning the side of the Llangan to Treoes road.

Reminder

St Canna's, Llangan, March 14 Eucharist 11.15am.

Acrylic demo

COWBRIDGE Art Society has a change of programme:

On Thursday, March 11 at 7pm in Old Hall, High Street, it will welcome back local artist Sue McDonagh for an acrylics demonstration.

Non-members will be welcomed.

Country markets

COWBRIDGE Country Markets have asked The GEM to point out that the market is open on the first and third Friday morning of each month.

For further information, telephone 01446 774703.

Walker's charitable assistance

FEBRUARY was National Heart Month and, as part of its fundraising activities, the Cowbridge branch of the British Heart Foundation organised a circular walk from the town, via Llanblethian and Llandough.

A total of 27 walkers who, with other absent friends, raised £232.

The committee is most grateful to all who participated.

JG

COMMUNITY NEWS

LLANBETHERY & LLANCARFAN

Your community correspondents are Sam & Patsie Smith on (01446) 751448

Whist drive

THE Llancarfan Society's next whist drive will be on Tuesday, March 30 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

Admission (as usual) is £1 and there will be prizes, a raffle and refreshments.

Other dates are April 27, May 25, June 29, July 27, August 31, September 28, October 26, November 30 and December 28.

Diamond tribute

BY popular request, there will be a Neil Diamond tribute evening at the Village Hall on Friday, March 12.

Tickets are £10 (including supper). Please come and support this event which is to raise funds for disabled facilities in the hall and much-needed extra storage space.

Tickets are available from Audrey 01446 781328 and Gwyn 01446 713533.

Litter problem

IN past weeks, I have noticed that more and more litter is appearing on the roads into Llanbethery.

This ranges from the inevitable discarded cigarette packets, plastic bottles and beer cans, to all sorts of other litter – on the Middlecross road there is even an old television in the ditch.

I realise that the perpetrators are unlikely to be the ones to read this and that village residents are unlikely to be responsible,.

However, I would ask everyone to ensure that they and their children do not chuck litter themselves. and also do what I do when walking in the area – and that is pick up litter and dispose of it oneself.

The police raid Cylch Meithrin Y Bont-faen

(but no children arrested!)

THE police came to visit – but all was well for the children at Cylch Meithrin Y Bont-faen – hand cuffs were used, but no children were taken in to custody!

The children met PC Kevin Purnell and PCSO Angela Stone as part of the theme this term 'people who help us'.

The police officers brought hats and uniforms, and the children had a fantastic time playing dress up.

They also learnt about the great work police officers do for the community.

The Cylch Meithrin Y Bont-faen provides Welsh medium pre-school education. Morning sessions for children aged two and afternoon sessions for three-year-olds. It also provides collection from Ysgol Iolo Morganwg morning nursery, for the afternoon session at Cylch.

For further information, contact the Cylch on 01446 776250 or visit www.cylchmeithrinybontfaen.co.uk.

Tracey Simpson

'We're looking for likely young recruits for the force!'

GREEN DRINKS

GREEN drinks are being held at the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge on Tuesday, March 9, from 7.30pm.

This is part of an open and informal monthly get-together now taking place worldwide.

It is described as a "great opportunity to chat and share information on how to live more sustainably". All welcome.

Contact Rob McGhee on 01446 775686, or transition-cowbridge@google-mail.com

'Splendid outcome' to Poppy Appeal

THE GEM published the fact that £4,223 had been raised from the sale of poppies in Cowbridge and district.

To this total can now be added the collection at Holy Cross Church on Remembrance Sunday, the payments for wreaths and several generous donations, giving a grand total of £6,953.

Through your column, and on behalf of the Royal British Legion, I should like to thank all those involved for this splendid outcome of the 2009 appeal in Cowbridge.

Unfortunately, there was no response to the Hon Poppy Appeal organiser's letter (GEM December 17, 2009) seeking a successor. I find it difficult to believe that there is nobody in Cowbridge prepared to undertake this worthwhile task and would invite anyone who would like more information to contact me on 01446 775627.

Len Taylor, Cowbridge

LOCAL MAN IS SENTENCED FOR CHILD PORN IMAGES

A PIZZA delivery man has been jailed for 10 months at Cardiff Crown Court, for possessing pornographic images of children.

The offence came to light when a fire broke out at the Barry home of Robert Clarke (53) after which he sent his computer hard drive to a specialist firm to be cleaned.

The images were spotted and the police were called, said the prosecutor, David Lloyd.

Clarke, of Pontyclun Close, had previously pleaded guilty before Barry Magistrates to having indecent photos of children and was committed to the Crown Court for sentence.

Mr Lloyd said: "The fire occurred last May. Clarke retrieved his hard drive and sent it off to be cleaned.

"Five images were discovered, ranging from level 3 to level 5, which is the most serious."

They featured girls aged eight to 15. One involved 'pseudo rape' and rape.

When arrested, Clarke said he was "not into that sort of porn" and had intended deleting it. His counsel, Adam Sharpe, said:

"I have to acknowledge that this is serious and disturbing.

"They were for his personal gratification and not to be distributed to others.

"No one else had access to his computer, and he has lived alone for 15 years."

He said Clarke co-operated with the police and had expressed remorse.

Prison, he added, would mean the loss of his home and of his employment.

Rotarians' polio campaign is backed by a Tory AM

RIGHT: Andrew Davies AM pictured with Cowbridge Rotarians.

THE campaign by Vale Rotarians to raise awareness of fundraising for polio vaccines, has been backed in the Assembly by Conservative regional AM Andrew Davies.

"I am delighted to support Rotary Clubs in the Vale and across Wales in their fundraising campaign to help eradicate the disease Polio from the Third World," Mr Davies said.

"Polio is a terrible disease which has ravaged many countries around the world. During the first half of the twentieth century, it crippled over half a million people every year. It is still endemic in India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria.

"This disease can be eradicated fairly simply with a thorough vaccination programme. This week over 30,000 young people took part in 'Wear Purple Day' to help raise awareness of Polio and to raise money.

"Llanfair Primary School in the Vale, where my daughter is a pupil, raised £130 to help rid the world of this crippling disease. I would like to commend the work of Rotarians, school teachers, pupils and everyone who has contributed to this important campaign."

Recruits sought by cycle club

THE Llantwit Major and Vale Cycle Touring Club is looking for cyclists who want to enjoy the local countryside.

A spokeswoman said: "We don't do time trials or racing events, just steady cycling with the time to enjoy our surroundings.

"No-one gets left behind as we proceed at the pace of the slowest or frequently stop to regroup.

"Any cycle will do but one with several gears is an advantage.

"Sunday runs usually leave from either the Co-operative car-park, Llantwit Major, Cowbridge town hall car-park, or the Down's Café on the A48 outside Cowbridge. Rides start at 10.30am.

"From May to August we have shorter Tuesday evening runs from Llantwit Major starting at 6.30pm.

"Membership is open to anyone over 14, but younger children are allowed on suitable runs provided a responsible adult accompanies them."

For more information, contact chairman, Trevor Hockley, barbarahockley@talktalk.net; secretary, Sheala Edwards, sheala.edwards@hotmail.co.uk; or treasurer, Colin Marsh, Colin.marsh@talktalk.net

Cowbridge pop singer needs backing dancers

A COWBRIDGE-BASED girl pop singer is looking for backing dancers to accompany her on a planned UK tour.

Emilie Rees has been developing her pop career in recent years, as both a song-writer and a producer, and describes her latest music as "pop-based, using heavy synths and pulsating beats, while keeping the strong, sexy vocals and direct lyrics which have become her trademark".

Emilie's record company is finalising the details of a planned UK tour, and she is keen to recruit and rehearse some local dancers to go on the road with her.

Supporting and publicising Emilie's career is a family effort and her mother, Sue, told The GEM that the local music scene is very "band-orientated" and that Emilie was keen to redress the balance.

She said: "The Emilie team want to concentrate on 'bringing pop back to Wales' as pop solo artists are largely under-represented in south Wales.

"So, it was decided to recruit dancers for the show locally, rather than using the dancers affiliated to the record label.

"This tour will be fun, hard-work and invaluable experience for any budding dancer.

"Emilie is looking for dancers who want to go on the journey with her, not just for this tour but for all future performances."

She added: "Lady GaGa herself has just used a similar method to put together a band and backing singers in the US for her European tour.

"If it's good enough for her, it's good enough for us!"

Anyone interested can find further information on the proposed tour at www.emilierees.co.uk

Forestry Commission clears out 'newcomers' from Hensol

VISITORS to the Forestry Commission Wales woodlands at Hensol, near Cowbridge, should notice a difference this spring thanks to careful restoration work.

Areas between trees and along forest tracks – known as forest rides - have been cleared of some of the trees to improve the appearance of the woodlands and to create new habitats for wildlife including butterflies and birds.

A Forestry Commission Wales spokeswoman said: "Woodlands such as Hensol date back to at least 1600.

"The work to the forest rides here is part of Forestry Commission Wales' programme of restoring ancient woodlands by removing non-native trees that were planted in the past, such as conifers.

In the future, these woodlands will be dominated by native trees such as oak, birch, rowan and ash."

Demise of the Morris dancing mini-skirt!

BONT FAEN WI NEWS

CARDIFF Ladies Morris Dancers entertained at the February meeting with a variety of dances from different parts of the country.

Formed in the 1970s' revival of folk music and dance, initially wearing mini dresses, waistcoat and bowler hat, the costume has evolved to resemble traditional Welsh National Costume.

We have our annual coffee morning on Saturday, March 6 in the Lesser Hall, with bric-a-brac stalls, cake and tombola, 1030am-1.30pm, with free entry and look forward to a successful day.

The next meeting will be at 8pm on Thursday, March 18, at the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge, with a talk by Gareth Simpson on 'Walking in the Vale'.

New members and guests welcomed.

Cowbridge Bridge news

THE results from the Vale of Glamorgan Club (Monday, February 22) are as follows:

1st, Vida Halford and Glyn Williams 65.40 per cent; 2nd, Mike Best and Liam Sheridan 59.09 ; 3rd, Marlorie Moris and Bill Turner 58.80; 4th, Terry Reilly and John Evans 57.87; 5th, Mary Moore and Peter Bugden 57.07; 6th, Ray Smith and Gwynne Maddox 56.82.

At the Cowbridge and District Club (Tuesday, February 23): 1st, Pam Higgs and Brenda Grove 62.50 per cent; 2nd, Mearl Owen and Debbie Rosevear 58.50; 3rd, Sara Bartlett and Anne Hughes 57.00; 4th, Pat and Brian Swain 53.50; 5th, Ann Miller and Judy Springett 53.18; 6th, Hugh Williams and Gordon Berrey 51.00.

Rotary club's visit to local schools symbolises the international plan to wipe out the curse of polio

MEMBERS of Cowbridge Rotary Club were on a mission last week – a mission to explain to local children how they intended to rid the world of polio!

To bring the message home, members visited six local primary schools: St Nicholas; Ysgol Iolo Morganwg; Llanfair; Llancarfan; Pendoylan and Peterston-super-Ely.

The day was entitled 'Purple Pinkie Day' – because children in Africa and India have purple ink daubed on a finger after being vaccinated, and the local pupils queued up to do likewise!

Since 1985, Rotary clubs around the world have raised £545 million to fund vaccinations, but Afghanistan, India, Nigeria and Pakistan still have provinces where polio is found.

Now, the Bill Gates Foundation has pledged 355 million US dollars to kick-start a final push to rid the world of polio but Rotary has to raise another 200 million dollars.

A spokesman for Cowbridge Rotary Club told the GEM that the Vale will be a part of this effort.

Pupils at Iolo Morganwg line up to be 'vaccinated'.

A purple pinkie at Pendoylan!

Llanfair pupils went purple!

Pendoylan pupils show their solidarity with a smile!

Rotary club members, after completing their 'vaccination' programme.

The Peterston purple pinkie posse!

ABOVE and BELOW: More Peterston pinkies!

St Nicholas pupils show their support!

Llanfair pupils are all smiles.

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are available from this event.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:
e-mail glynevans01@tiscali.co.uk
telephone 01446 773225.
**Now open in the Wool Barn, Verity's Court, Cowbridge.*

Having difficulties finding your TV channels?

Try re-tuning or call 08456 50 50 50 (English language) or 08458 48 48 48 (Welsh language).

get set for digital

Nag nappies, are they the answer?

HORSE manure – The GEM letters column has been full of it but I now propose a solution to this Vale-wide problem: Nag nappies.

These would not only be environmentally friendly, but also make economic sense, as the contents could either be spread on the many council-owned roundabouts, or sent to MPs claiming gardening expenses, to make their taxpayer-funded gardens more luxuriant.

Three problems solved at the swish of a horse's tail.
Christopher Short, Barry

THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (*in certain circumstances*), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters brief and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

Running gauntlet on a bracing stroll!

MAY I respond to Mr Robert G Dyke's letter in The GEM regarding the benefits of walking.

Inspired by his phenomenal idea, I decided to follow Mr Dyke's sage advice to the letter.

I set off on Saturday morning for a 20-minute stroll along the streets around our house. I had to exercise some caution to avoid the copious piles of dog mess and, just five minutes into the walk, I tripped over an enormous mound of horse manure!

Fortunately, I fell into a pile of takeaway boxes and assorted litter – presumably blown over from Barry Island.

Nevertheless, I continued up to Cemetery Way, taking time to reflect on the number of truly impressive buildings in the local area, anyone of which is no doubt capable of housing a museum.

Undeterred by the morning's difficulties, I set out again in the evening, feeling much more confident in my walking and prepared for a 40-minute jaunt.

Imagine my surprise when I was practically run down by what appeared to be an eccentric old gentleman, flying past me brandishing a (presumably decommissioned) rifle!

I can only suggest that any other budding walkers, or cyclists, stick to country lanes and wear suitable high visibility clothing.

Due to the lack of signposts, it took me over four hours to find my way home again!

Food for thought indeed.

Jim Shields, Barry

THE DOG OWNERS WHO IGNORE COUNTRY CODE

I FEEL very privileged that we have such a wonderful amenity as the beach at Barry Island.

My daughter takes her horse to swim in the sea early in the morning, usually at 7am.

The horse swims for half an hour and the tide is in when we arrive, so we are able to unload and walk directly onto the beach and into the sea. We have been advised to swim the horse by our vet. Even in the very severe weather, which we have recently enjoyed, it has proved very beneficial.

Unfortunately, there have been a number of people unloading four or five large dogs, who jump out of their 4 x 4 vehicles and are not under any control; they rush up to a horse and, of course, this frightens it.

I have been very surprised at the response of the owners, who think it is a huge joke and laugh at their dogs' behaviour.

We try to time our visits to avoid the large number of dog walkers, and I wish people would understand that accidents will happen if horses are frightened.

I hope Barry Council makes it abundantly clear to dog walkers that they should adhere to the countryside code.

The beach at Barry Island is a wonderful facility to be enjoyed by all and I hope that responsible dog owners will take note of this.

Only a few have I seen clear up after their dogs. Some ignore the problem altogether and just walk away.

I have also noted that the council workers do a wonderful job, emptying bins and clearing away rubbish at the early hour of 7am.

I am really impressed that the promenade is kept so beautifully tidy.

It would be a shame not to have the use of this superb facility.

Sue Mathias, Llancarfan

Crematorium charges rise at Coychurch

THE services at the crematorium, which is jointly run by Bridgend, Vale of Glamorgan and Rhondda Cynon Taff Councils, is set to rise by ten per cent.

The Coychurch Crematorium Joint Committee is being asked tomorrow, Friday, to approve the rise, which will see the price of an adult cremation increase from £386 to £425 from April 1.

According to a report from Richard Fletcher, the clerk and technical officer, the extra money is needed to pay for improvements at the crematorium, which includes the installation of replacement cremators.

The crematorium dealt with 1,808 cremations in 2009 - 757 from Bridgend, 601 from the Vale, 306 from Rhondda Cynon Taff and 54 from non- residents.

At the moment, Coychurch stands 234th out of a list of 255 crematoria for its charges – the highest charges are levied at Harrogate where a fee of £623 is levied.

Increasing the charge to £425 will bring the crematorium in line with those at Swansea and Narberth, which also charge £425 but will put it ahead of Margam, which charges £363.

All the others in south Wales will be cheaper, apart from Llanelli which charges £460.

All the fees charged at the crematorium for various services will increase from April 1, apart from the funerals of children aged under 16, which remain free as long as they are held on weekdays.

'Ban dogs from public areas'

AS the debate between dog lovers and horse owners continues in The GEM, maybe it's time for other members of the public to have their say – who like to sit outside and have a coffee without being surrounded by dogs that bark continuously, drool and sniff – and lick you with tongues that have been licking their backs. I have even seen someone sharing an ice lolly with their dog, taking turns to lick; how disgusting is that?

All that combined with the fact that trying to walk without stepping in dog mess, which is like walking through a minefield – not just at the beach, but in Barry as a whole – is in my opinion, reason enough to restrict access to public areas for all owners.

Irene Jones, Barry

Horse manure is also dangerous

THROUGHOUT the dog/horse debate which has been ongoing in the letters pages of The GEM over the last few weeks, I was wondering when someone would quote the favourite 'horse manure isn't dangerous' phrase of selfish horse riders, who do not care about the mess their animals leave behind (last week's GEM letters).

In fact, horse manure can contain pathogens, E coli, leptospirosis and roundworm, all of which are extremely dangerous to human health.

Mrs V Pritchard states it is unfair that there are 309 miles of footpaths in the Vale, compared with 16 miles of bridleways.

I wonder if she knows how many people in the Vale use the footpaths, with or without dogs, compared to the privileged few who own horses and use the bridleways?

Leanne Sokolski, Barry

Walking for health

MAY I commend the recent letter in The GEM entitled 'Walking is so good for you!'

It is the easiest, cheapest and most accessible form of exercise, year round. Walking independently and regularly is ideal.

If people want to walk in company and have the opportunity to discover new walking routes on the Vale's extensive 550km footpath network, the Valeways walking programme offers guided short walks of 60-90 minutes.

The spring programme is out now, with dates often publicised in The GEM.

The Vale is unique in having a charitable organisation in Valeways, which provides a full time crew of staff and volunteers to work on improvements and maintenance on the rights of way network in partnership with the council.

More volunteers, individuals, groups and corporate days are always welcome.

For further information and the spring walking programme, contact *carolyn@valeways.org.uk* or visit *www.valeways.org.uk*

Gareth Simpson, (Valeways)

Vale of Glamorgan Council
Highways Act 1980
Section 116 and 117

TAKE NOTICE that the Vale of Glamorgan Council, as Highways Authority for the length of adopted highway known as the Dunraven Bay access road, Southerndown, intends to seek an Order under section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 to stop up and divert that part of the highway described in Schedule 1 below, which highway shall be stopped in a manner which will prohibit public access or use of the route.

The application will be heard at Barry Magistrates Court on 12th April, 2010 at 10.00am. Any person wishing to object to the stopping up and diversion of the highway known as the Dunraven Bay access road described in Schedule 1 may attend and be heard on that date.

A copy of the proposed Order and associated plan may be viewed at Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan and The Alps Depot, Quarry Road, Wenvoe, Vale of Glamorgan on Monday to Friday between the hours of 9.30am and 4.30pm.

Schedule 1

That part of the highway known as Dunraven Bay access road, Southerndown.

Dated: 24/02/10

P H Evans,
Director of Legal and Regulatory Services,
Civic Offices.
Holton Road, Barry,
Vale of Glamorgan. CF63 4RU

PUBLIC MEETING

to discuss proposals with the Cabinet member for Education and Lifelong Learning and Vale of Glamorgan education officers.

Formal consultation on proposed
new Welsh Medium Schools in Barry and Llantwit Major
due to open September 2011.

8 March 2010, 6.00pm
at Llantwit Major Comprehensive School, Ham Lane East
And
10 March 2010, 6.00pm
at Ysgol Bro Morgannwg, Colcot Road, Barry

CYFARFOD CYHOEDDUS

Er mwyn trafod cynigion â'r Aelod o'r Cabinet ar gyfer Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes a swyddogion addysg Bro Morgannwg.

Ymgynghoriad ffurfiol ynglyn ag
Ysgol Gymraeg Newydd Llanilltud Fawr a hefyd y Barri
sydd i'w hagor ym Medi 2011.

8 Mawrth 2010 am 6.00pm
yn Ysgol Gyfun Llanilltud Fawr, Ham Lane East
Ac
10 Mawrth 2010 am 6.00pm
yn Ysgol Bro Morgannwg, Heol Colcot, y Barri

These venues are accessible to all.
Please let us know of any access needs by calling J Jones on 01446 709133.
This document is available in other formats upon request.

Mae'r adeiladoedd yma yn hawdd i bawb ei ddefnyddio.
Rhowch wybod i ni os oes gennych anghenion o safbwynt defnyddio'r adeilad drwy ffonio J Jones ar 01446 709133.
Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael mewn fformatau eraill drwy hol.

www.valeofglamorgan.co.uk

FOLLOW THE (Vale Council) LEADER

by Coun **GORDON KEMP** Leader of the Vale Council

Welcome to my first column for The GEM. Each month, I will be sharing with you my experiences as Leader of the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

Much of the last few months has been dedicated to budget setting. Everyone is aware of the financial crisis that has hit the world economy, and local government is not immune to its effects.

Our budgets are being squeezed as the Welsh Assembly must be frugal with its grants to local government and the recession is causing a drop in our income from areas such as our leisure centres.

Our challenge is to protect essential services while keeping the level of council tax down. We appreciate that many residents' finances have also been affected by the recession.

This year, we have kept the council tax increase to 3.9 per cent. An average Band D property in the Vale will be charged £894.33 for council services (this does not include the charges levied by the police force or community and town councils).

The Welsh Local Government Association predicts that the average Welsh council tax charge for a Band D property will be £926.52 – meaning the Vale's council tax is lower than average.

We still have to press on with major projects, such as our school investment strategy. Our young people are the workers of tomorrow and the success of our future economy depends on a well educated workforce.

Vale school pupils are the scientists, doctors, policy makers and engineers of tomorrow and we are determined to provide excellent education in schools housed in first class buildings.

The new Cowbridge Comprehensive School is due to open in the autumn and we are working on plans to replace St Cyres Comprehensive.

It is not just schools that we aim to renew – the recent opening of the Thompson Street footbridge in Barry is just part of the work we must undertake to improve our towns.

Efficiency savings are the order of the day. We recently agreed the closure of the cash offices in Penarth, Cowbridge and Llantwit Major, due to take place on March 4, but the services offered at the offices will be provided by local libraries from March 7 and bills can be paid in a wide variety of ways, including at outlets such as post offices.

There will be hard decisions to be made regarding services over the coming year and there will be some job losses at the Vale Council.

Unfortunately things will be tough in the public sector, including local government, for some years to come.

The Vale Council is the largest employer in the area, being the livelihood of thousands of local families. We are also a major buyer of goods and services from the private sector.

The squeeze on public finances has an effect on our society way beyond the walls of the Civic Offices.

Safer Vale HQ moves to new home at Barry Fire Station

THE new Safer Vale headquarters in Barry has been officially opened by TV presenter Jonathan Hill at Barry Fire Station on Port Road West.

Partnership chairman Coun Paul Church said:

"Community safety is not just about tackling crime but also includes many other aspects that would not be the responsibility of the police or one agency alone.

"It makes a lot of sense for everyone involved in Safer Vale to be under one roof.

"It makes communication easier and more efficient, which means we can respond to issues more quickly as they arise.

"Now we spend less time on email or trying to track people down on the telephone, and more time discussing how we plan to tackle the issues face to face."

Cutting a ribbon to mark the official opening of the new Safer Vale headquarters in Barry, TV presenter Jonathan Hill was joined by from left: Coun Anthony Ernest (chairman of South Wales Fire and Rescue Service), Supt Liane James (South Wales Police), Coun Paul Church, Safer Vale Partnership chairman, and Alun Billinghurst, head of public protection, Vale Council.

Tea dance for Fairtrade

I WOULD like to take this opportunity to thank the organisers of last Saturday's Fairtrade tea dance at Cowbridge Town Hall, which was raising money and awareness of Fairtrade Fortnight.

We all know that Fairtrade is a very important movement, which directly helps farmers and their families across the world to get a fair price for their product and their hard work, but sometimes we all need a little reminding of what it is that we can do as individuals to help.

Many thanks also to those who took the time and trouble to teach me to improve my dancing skills, and to the pupils of Cowbridge Comprehensive who gave their time to assist.

For those interested in supporting other events, there will be a Fairtrade Tea Brew in Dinas Powys Parish Hall on Saturday morning between 10am and midday.

Dr Ian Johnson, Barry

Pothole cash

THE VALE COUNCIL is getting an extra £100,000 from the Assembly, to repair potholes that were caused by the January freeze.

The Deputy First Minister, Ieuan Wyn Jones, announced earlier this month that £2.75m would be made available to local authorities to tackle potholes.

Now, the Vale Council's exact share has been announced, and it will receive £105,260.

Chris Franks, AM for South Wales Central, said: "The Vale roads are in a dreadful state and I hope that the Vale Council acts quickly."

VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
GRANTS TO COMMUNITY/VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

Applications are invited from COMMUNITY/VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS (not individuals) seeking assistance for the financial year 2010/2011.

Applicants are required to complete an application form which is available from: Accountancy Section, Finance Dept., Civic Offices, Holton Rd., Barry. CF63 4RU. Tel: 01446 709250/251. Fax: 01446 701729.

Applications from or on behalf of national organisations, or other organisations, which are not based within the Council's area **will not normally be considered.**

Applications will be considered on their merit and according to this Council's criteria, a copy of which accompanies the application form. Submission of an application does not automatically ensure that a grant will be made.

Organisations in receipt of this funding in previous years will have already been sent the appropriate form for completion and need not respond to this advertisement.

Application forms are to be returned by Friday 30 April 2010.

Civic Offices
Holton Road
Barry CF63 4RU

Sian Davies,
Director of Finance, ICT & Property

VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG

A Leekes kitchen for just

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There's low monthly payments plus INTEREST FREE CREDIT on all kitchens in the *Affordably Yours* collection. Now on at Leekes.

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*Interest free credit is subject to status, conditions apply. A Leekes kitchen is based on a cash price of £8,000, deposit £836, 0% interest free credit, 36 monthly payments of £199, total amount payable £8,000.

Older People's Forum says 'thank you' to pupils

Nisha Shukla (involvement officer), Katie Fish (St Cyres), Vale Mayor (Coun Emlyn Williams) Sophie Roberts (St Cyres), Winnie Davies (executive member of the Vale Older People's Strategy Forum).

THE Vale Mayor, Coun Emlyn Williams, was welcomed by officers and members of the Vale Older People's Strategy Forum when he attended a coffee morning and information day at the Barry Library. The Forum and its members expressed gratitude to St Cyres sixth formers, Sophie Roberts and Katie Fish, for their help in making the well attended coffee morning and information day so successful.

Vale AM offers support to court 'admin' staff

THE campaign to stop the Vale Magistrates Court's administrative work being moved to Bridgend is gathering pace.

As well as meeting John Smith MP, the administrative team has met with Vale AM Jane Hutt.

She was told that four members of staff will be forced to redeploy to other courts in south Wales with only two members to remain in Barry.

Three years ago, there were 11 members of the administrative team, now there are only six.

Jane Hutt said: "The Vale Magistrates Court is extremely busy with daily criminal courts plus a family court, domestic abuse court and courts to deal with a range of fines.

"It is not clear how there can be savings if case files are kept in Bridgend and would have to be transported daily to Barry."

She added: "I have made representations to Her Majesty's Courts Service and the Justice Minister Bridget Prentice MP, making the point that Barry is the largest town in Wales and it needs a fully functioning magistrates court, providing local justice for local people."

Barry murder trial continues as court is told of stabbing

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

A MAN alleged to have been murdered during an incident in Barry when, it is claimed, he was stabbed through the heart, "had a fiery temper" a witness told a jury at Cardiff Crown Court.

But Paul Michael Jones, a married man, who suffered two fatal wounds, was always "a happy guy", said his friend of 20 years, Christopher Painting.

Before the court is John Chivers, 30, of Cardiff Road, Barry, who denies the charge of murdering Mr Jones, who was known as 'Jonah'.

Prosecutor Michael Chambers said that the two men, Mr Painter and the defendant's girlfriend, Dominique Fitzgerald, were initially drinking in the 'King Billy' pub in Cadoxton on the night of August 3.

Later, outside her house, Chivers and Mr Jones were involved in a dispute, exchanged blows and shortly after, it is alleged, the defendant stabbed him twice through the heart with a carving knife he had obtained from the kitchen of Miss Fitzgerald's house.

After the alleged incident, Chivers left the scene and took an overdose, said Mr Chambers.

Mr Painting told the jury that his friend Mr Jones and the defendant were speaking in the pub and seemed to be getting on well.

Later, Mr Jones drove Mr Painting and the defendant to Columbus Close, where Miss Fitzgerald lived.

At one point, he said, he saw Chivers "strike Miss Fitzgerald to the face with the back of his hand."

"She hit the deck. Mr Jones said: 'I'm not having that' got out of the car and confronted him."

Mr Painting said they had a slanging match and went for each other, and he tried to defuse the situation, but was struck through a fence into a garden.

He noticed Mr Jones going to his car to get something to defend himself.

He next remembers him lying on the road saying "I've been stabbed."

Mr Painting said that the defendant had attacked him and demonstrated how he had stabbed at him.

Cross examined by defence counsel, David Evans QC, he said he had no idea how Mr Jones was later found to have a high content of cocaine in his blood.

"I didn't see him taking cocaine and that's not a lie."

He agreed his friend had "a fiery temper" but he had never seen him strike anyone in his company.

He added that he was also unaware that Mr Jones threw the first punch that night, but he did know, he said, that he had been in trouble with the police in the past.

Earlier in the trial, a female witness said she had seen some of the incident from the bathroom of her parents' home after having a shower.

She noticed the defendant coming out of the house with a knife.

She described the events as something "like a bad dream".

In a statement read to the court, a scenes of crime investigator said that the following day he recovered a carving knife embedded in a lawn in a house in Columbus Close, and a wheel brace from the footwell of Mr Jones' Renault car.

The case continues...

Airport's exercise boost for Ty Hafan

CARDIFF Airport has donated £700 to Ty Hafan as a thank you for providing volunteers in an emergency training exercise.

A spokesperson explained that the airport was in need of volunteers for an exercise at the end of 2009, and the hospice at Sully pulled out all the stops to find willing 'pseudo holidaymakers' to play passengers and their families involved in an aircraft accident.

The airport donated £10 per volunteer to the children's charity.

Airport Contingency Planner Avril Brown explained: "Under our licence with the Civil Aviation Authority the airport is expected to hold regular emergency exercises, to ensure that both the airport and local authority emergency services have the skills to deal with a major aircraft incident.

"We've struggled in the past to find people to take part in exercises as the volunteers are required to spend long periods of time on the airfield or in the terminal building.

"This time Ty Hafan thankfully offered their assistance and rallied the troops together, in return for a donation to help raise much needed funds."

Candidate backs cancer campaign

ALANA DAVIES, Labour's parliamentary candidate in the Vale, is backbacking Cancer Research UK's Cancer Commitment Campaign.

"I am delighted to pledge my support for Cancer Research UK's vital campaign. Cancer remains the public's number one fear. With a concerted effort from the next parliament, we can give hope to the millions of people affected by cancer and their friends and family," she said.

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Rotary holds its 'Thanks for Life' charity luncheon

AS part of the big national event 'Thanks for Life', the Rotary Club of Cowbridge held a charity lunch at the Bear Hotel on Sunday with 130 guests.

Dr Keith Barnard-Jones, a senior international Rotarian and specialist in Rotary's work on polio eradication, gave a fascinating and moving presentation on polio eradication and the work of Rotary.

A second speaker was Harry Scott, a comedian who had the entire audience in raptures of laughter. The two excellent speakers made it a most successful event, thoroughly enjoyed by all. The proceeds were £1,400, all of which will be donated to Rotary's polio eradication project.

AL

ABOVE: The Cowbridge president, Colin Jones, with Dr Keith Barnard-Jones.

COMMUNITY NEWS
ST BRIDES MAJOR
Your local correspondent is
Patricia Bevan-Morgan
(01656) 880418

AT the Mothers Union monthly Eucharist in All Saints, Southerndown, on February 26, six new members were enrolled into the branch.

On March 5, the Women's Worldwide Day of Prayer will be held in All Saints Church, Southerndown, at 7.30pm, and at branches around the diocese.

ON Sunday, February 28, a Eucharist was held in All Saints Church, Southerndown to celebrate St David's Day.

The congregation heard of the work of St David and the association with St Illtyds, Llantwit Major.

THE Venerable Philip Morris would like to thank everyone for the presents and cards received for his 'significant' birthday.

ON March 5, a charity concert will be held in Ewenny Priory at 7.30pm in aid of Bridgend YMCA, featuring Maesteg Gleemen, Bridgend Junior Big Band and special guests.

OGMORE-by-SEA Retired Residents Association meets today at the Watermill (March 4) when the programme will be a 'Trip to Pembrokeshire' with Joy and Eric.

On March 18, there is a bar lunch followed by the annual general meeting at 2pm.

Council 'ignored' over planning, – says councillor

RESPONSES from Llantwit Major Town Council to planning applications are not always reported, according to Vale councillor Gwyn John.

He told the town council that when the planning report goes to Vale councillors, some of the Llantwit applications are marked as having had no response from the town council.

"I feel it's probably down to a time delay in the town council getting the council's observations back into the Vale and then them putting it into the report. I would ask the clerk to look at this," he stated.

Clerk Lesley Stokes replied that she always rings a planning officer to ask when the deadline is for observations to be in by, and to see if observations can be sent in late if the Llantwit meeting falls afterwards.

Coun Russell Downe said that even when the town council's observations were reported, it was galling to find that they were ignored.

"I chaired our planning committee for five years, but it was frustrating after going out to view a property and making a recommendation, to find that those views were not taken on board by the Vale Council.

"They are not listening to us," he complained.

Vale Cash offices will close

THE cash offices in Llantwit, Cowbridge and Penarth will close tomorrow, Friday.

Coun Gwyn John told Llantwit Town Council that a publicity programme had been put in place by the Vale Council to notify the public of the changes and leaflets had also been placed in each community.

From Monday, the libraries in each of the three communities will offer increased services to replace those lost by the closure. Payments can be made at post offices, banks or at other approved pay points.

Council acts over Llantwit Major cottages

THE future of cottages in the Square at Llantwit Major is being explored by the Llantwit Major Town Council.

Coun Gwyn John reported that he was hoping to meet a member of the Amos family, which was believed to own the empty properties in the Square, some of which had been converted into shops.

The town council is anxious to see them brought back into use.

"I know the lady involved and she is visiting the area in March.

" She intends to improve the houses and then either re-let them or sell them as houses. I also hope to get information about the Globe Field."

The council feels this could be developed as a replacement cemetery once the present one is full.

Pupils back Interact fight against polio

THE Llantwit Major Interact club is planning to raise money to help eradicate polio by asking Llantwit Major Comprehensive School sixth form students to make and sponsor purple hand prints on a large poster.

This will represent vaccinations given to prevent polio, and will provide a lasting reminder of the money that was raised.

When children in the third world are given polio vaccinations, they have a finger painted purple to show that the vaccination has been given. The Llantwit Major Interactors are year-12 and 13 students at the town's comprehensive school.

Interact is Rotary International's service club for young people aged from 14 to 18. Llantwit Major Interact club is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Llantwit Major, which provides support and guidance, but in common with all Interact clubs throughout the world, is self-governing and self-supporting.

The event is part of Rotary's national Thanks for Life campaign, that will see hundreds of Rotary clubs across Great Britain and Ireland linking up with schools, businesses, organisations and individuals to hold a range of fundraising events to raise the £1 million target.

Rotary across the world aims to raise £130 million to match £225 million in challenge grants received from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The resulting £355 million will directly support immunisation campaigns in developing countries, where polio continues to infect and paralyse children, robbing them of their future and compounding the hardships faced by their families.

Polio is a crippling, and sometimes fatal, disease and still a very harrowing reality for children in parts of Africa and Asia and threatens children everywhere.

It is highly virulent and only an air flight away from the UK. Every £1 raised in this campaign will purchase five doses of the special anti-polio vaccine. These children will be protected against polio – forever.

We are so close to stamping out polio and we hope this enjoyable event will encourage more people to get behind the initiative. It is vital that we eradicate it from the four remaining endemic countries or the likelihood is that the disease will spread again to the countries which have been cleared.

With the public's help we can destroy polio.

Interested residents can find out more about the fight to end polio at the web site www.ribi.org/thanks-for-life.

GARETH REES
(Llantwit Rotary Club president)

We welcome your news, views and sports items. Please email them to the Editorial Department at: ***ggem@internet-today.co.uk***

'Lock out the burglars!'
– police warning

THERE were 40 crimes in Llantwit Major in the past month – including some opportunist burglaries.

Police are warning householders to keep their back doors locked at all times.

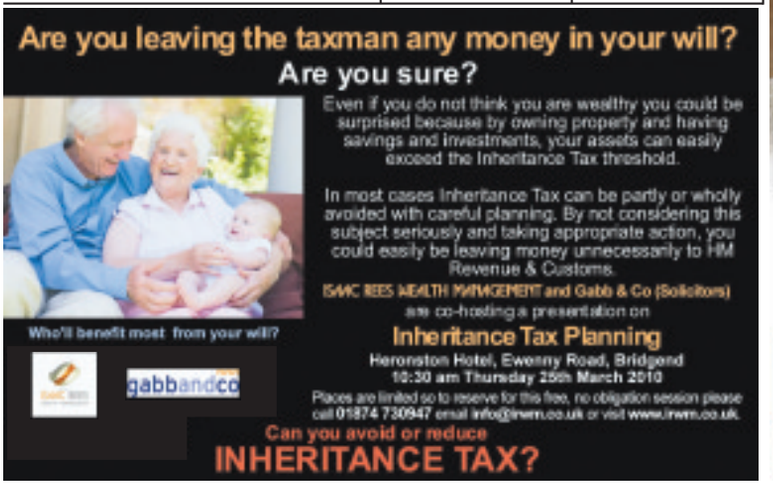
Sgt Nick Kihlberg stated that there were three cases where burglars had gone around randomly trying doors and they had found some unlocked.

"They did not enter the premises – they just reached in and grabbed what was by the door. We also had a case in Ham Lane where a back door was pushed in."

He said inquiries were on-going and some arrests had been made.

There were also five drugs-related incidents and three shoplifting cases.

Coun Molly Lane commented that the burglaries were frightening because people were in the houses at the time. "It's opportunism. They just go around trying doors. They are no threat. One lady only realised her handbag was missing hours later. It is unpleasant, but the lesson is, lock your door!" said Sgt Kihlberg



LAST CHANCE TO SHOWCASE BARRY'S HISTORY?

Vale Heritage Centre coalition is launched

A GROUP formed to convince the Vale Council of the merits of a Vale Heritage Centre was officially launched this week.

The Vale Heritage Centre Coalition has been formed by local historians Dr Jonathan Hicks, Aldon Grisdale, Andy Hinton, Glenn Booker, John Chucas, Howard Thomas, Alun Robertson and Brian Luxton.

In partnership with the 'Barry, Wales' website owner Steve Williams, Ade Pitman who runs the 'World at War' website, Paul Haley of 'Pride in Barry' and David Simpson of the 'Barry Merchant Seamen' website, the group has met several times since Christmas to discuss how to ensure that the history of the Vale is preserved.

The group's mission statement states: *'We believe that the Vale of Glamorgan has a rich, varied and important history that should be preserved for posterity and displayed in an appropriate venue for the benefit and education of local people and visitors'.*

To this end, the group is calling for the space set aside in the planning application submitted by the Barry Waterfront Consortium for community use to be dedicated to the construction of a Vale Heritage Centre.

This building would contain static displays on the history of the Vale, plus exhibition space for material brought in for a special commemoration.

Ade Pitman said: "Generations of people have grown up without knowing any of their local history, and as Barry and the Vale even more become a suburb of Cardiff, if we miss this opportunity, people may never know the history of the area.

"The Heritage Centre should tell the story of the Vale from pre-history to the present day.

"It should feature interactive exhibits and not simply be a dusty room full of pictures. It should attract, entertain and educate."

The group has contacted local history societies across the Vale and they have pledged their support for the venture.

"As a teacher, I firmly believe in education," said Dr Hicks, "and what better place to start the teaching of history in our schools than in the history that lies all around us.

"We would start with the dinosaur footprints and fossils to be found on Bendrick Rock and Lavernock Beach, to the ancient burial chambers like Tinkinswood, on through the Viking raids, the building of the medieval castles in the area, the Battle at St Fagans, the smugglers, the growth of the docks at Penarth and Barry, the history of the Barry Railway Company – to the development of St Athan airfield, the story of the Great War and WW2, the growth of tourism and industry. The list is endless.

"Each town and village in the Vale would be represented in the building and as the facility grew, we would envisage a two-way process where artefacts and information are lent out to towns such as Llantwit and Cowbridge so that events could be staged around them.

Dr Jonathan Hicks.

"This could be a vibrant, community hub, as well as a tourist attraction.

"It could also serve as a tourist information centre and by liaising with the local sailing clubs, sea cadets and sea scouts it would emerge as a well-used multi-functional facility on the Waterfront.

"This is a non-political group which is calling for support from across the Vale to give the county a central base from which its history can be told."

The Vale Heritage Centre Coalition will be presenting its case to the Vale Council's scrutiny committee next month and urges readers with an interest in education, history and culture to lend their support to their cause.

For more information, e-mail: ninian27@btinternet.com

Charter Trust looks for new projects to continue its Cowbridge enhancement

MEMBERS of Cowbridge Charter Trust were told at their AGM recently that work on the Town Walls was going well, despite delays because of the cold weather.

In handing over office to Harry Hailes, retiring chairman Luke Millar, who pioneered the work on the walls for the Charter Trust, said that the project was heading for completion well within the grant authorized by the Vale Council to cover the costs. This was being paid in monthly stages.

He explained that the trust, by employing its own consultant, Peter Jones, of Vale Consultancy, had been able to engage a local stonemason of exemplary skill, whose quotation was about one fifth of the cost estimated by the outside consultants the Vale Council originally employed to survey the walls.

"He said: "It seems to bear out the lesson, that keeping things local and in the hands of knowledgeable people can prove hugely beneficial, both for the council and for Cowbridge.

"The craftsmanship is of a very high order, and Peter's great knowledge of stone-work restoration has been of inestimable benefit to us."

Harry Hailes endorsed the same sentiments, saying that the Charter Trust was now examining further ideas and projects in pursuit of enhancing the town and its environment.

He said: "The people who have handled the town walls restoration deserve the highest praise for what they have done, not least the volunteers who, over a period of three years, did so much strenuous work to rid the walls of extraneous penetration by bushes, ivy and roots that were damaging the entire structure.

"These people have been terrific, worth their weight in gold."

Trustee Linda Osborn, who is leading the Old Hall grounds restoration programme, told the meeting that similar sound progress was being made by the Vale Council project, supported by the Charter Trust, to enhance the area at the rear of Old Hall.

A wide new stone terrace and pond-surround had been completed, and new and extended lighting was about to be installed. The council were already receiving bookings for outside events using the new paving.

The restoration of the façade was coming next, and plans for the enhancement of the garden, with new plantings and a wild-flower meadow, would continue through the summer.

Dick Tonkin will take over as trust secretary, and two additional trustees were up for election: Peter Jones and former mayor, Hugh W Field.

Confusion over Christmas lights

CONFUSION about the new committee organising the Christmas lights in Llantwit Major prompted a meeting between the town council and chamber of trade representatives.

The lights last year were the responsibility of a newly set-up Christmas illuminations committee.

Coun Dave Lane said he asked for this to be discussed because some councillors did not seem to realise that there was still a full partnership between the council and the chamber.

Councillors received a copy of the minutes of a meeting held last April at which it had been agreed that the new committee would be a sub-committee of the chamber of trade and would consist of three councillors, three chamber representatives and six members of the community.

Three councillors were subsequently appointed at the council's annual meeting. The town clerk or her deputy would also be in attendance.

Coun Gwyn John felt it was important that one of the council's representatives on the committee reported back, especially from September onwards about what was happening:

"We must have everybody in the loop. "People will then know what's expected of them."

Coun Russell Downe stated that some councillors had been under the impression this was not a partnership involving the council, and that there was no need to get involved.

"But as we can see from these minutes, which were dug up by Coun Bob Gant, things were decided at a meeting chaired by the mayor and then ratified at a council meeting. We did not just hand it over to the chamber. It was always a joint venture."

Coun Colin Faulkner said he understood that the reason that the group was formed was to take advantage of grants for the lighting that the council was not eligible for.

"I thought it was a Chamber of Trade-led initiative with support from the council."

Coun Downe said it was still a partnership – no matter which organisation led it.

Coun Dave Lane said that the funding was crucial – the committee got £2,500 from the town council and also had £1,000 from n-power, and the chamber also raised money.

John Moisan, president of the chamber of trade, pointed out that until 2009, the Christmas lights were provided by a body that was councilled.

Then, the chamber had proposed taking on the organisation of the lights, in partnership with the council.

"We set it up as a sub committee of the chamber, drafted a constitution and this was accepted," he said.

"By the time this was done, it was getting on in the year and there was no time to apply for extra grants.

"We will be going to Creative Rural Communities to see if we can get a grant to replace some of the lights. We are hoping to use low energy lights that will be brighter and will last longer."

A major cost was the electrician, and she was hoping that a grant would be available to train someone in how to test the equipment which would save a lot of money.

The Vale's new 'twinning' association will develop current friendship links

RESIDENTS and organisations across the area will be invited to apply for membership of a new organisation fostering links between the Vale and its twin and friendship towns.

Comprising 10 members, including two Vale councillors, the Vale of Glamorgan Twinning Association will promote, support and develop links with Fécamp (France), Mouscron (Belgium) and Rheinfelden (Germany) – the Vale's twin towns – and Jurbarkas (Lithuania) and Neumarkt (Italy), with whom there are friendship pacts.

The Vale Council's cabinet has agreed a three-year funding package of £6,000 for the association, and council leader Coun Gordon Kemp, said: "Twinning activities and events provide a great opportunity to develop cultural and economic links. A number of organisations, including Vale of Glamorgan Artists and Barry Ladies' Choir, and schools, have established links and have expressed an interest in forming a twinning body."

The council will host a meeting of interested parties as a prelude to the formation of the organisation, and Coun Kemp added: "We would offer a venue for meetings and officer support, as appropriate, in the early stages but, in the longer term, it is envisaged that the association would become self sustaining.

"Organisations across the area would be invited to apply to the association for funding towards any proposed exchange projects."

Conservation area question over plastic shopfront

ENFORCEMENT officers from the Vale Council have been sent to inspect a new plastic shopfront installed on a property in the Llantwit Major conservation area.

Coun Bob Gant asked why the town council had not received a planning application for the work, which has been carried out to the old healing shop next to the former Pickwick Papers.

Coun Downe said that he had been in touch with Vale Conservation officer Nick Lloyd, who was unaware of any planning application for this scheme. The case is being investigated.

"I recently met Nick Lloyd and we talked about the need for suitable windows to be installed within the conservation area. We were told that the Vale Council was trying to prevent unsuitable windows being used," Coun Downe reported.

Coun Gwyn John stated that he had not seen any planning application for this: "I go to all planning committee meetings, so I will send an e-mail about this to the planning department myself."

Coun Colin Faulkner commented that if it transpired planners had permitted this new shopfront, he would be very disappointed.

"The Vale has argued that it wants to reduce the size of the conservation area so that it can concentrate resources on a smaller conservation area," he added.

Coun Downe said that if an application was submitted, it should have gone to the Vale Conservation Area committee and Heather March who sits on that, knew nothing about it.

He added: "We should be careful, as it may set a precedent."

Coun John remarked that it may be that after enforcement officers visit the site, a retrospective planning application would be submitted.

Twmpath with Mabon

PETERSTON Entertainment Society will present a Twmpath with Mabon at Peterston-super-Ely church and community hall on March 16.

Led by accordionist Jamie Smith, the six-piece band also features young Scottish musician of the year finalist, Calum Stewart on wooden flute, and Ruth Angell (Rainbow Chasers, Lark Rise Band) on fiddle.

Tickets on 0779 3738344 or Peterston village store.

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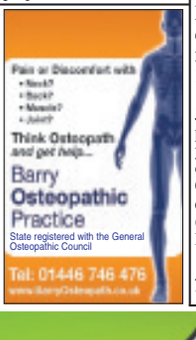


Troops back St David's Day appeal as....

Local residents 'Go Red' to help the disadvantaged young

No 6 Platoon, First Battalion Royal Welsh show their support for the Prince's Trust Cymru's Go Red appeal.

LOCAL residents have been rallying to a campaign to help raise money for disadvantaged young people in Wales – by going red to mark St David's Day.

Barry junior school, St Helen's RC, was just one of those taking part in the Wales-wide annual appeal, Go Red, organised by youth charity the Prince's Trust Cymru, which helps fund practical and financial support for young people help them get back into work, education or training.

"This year, the Trust is hoping to raise £10,000 by encouraging people to make contributions and fundraise by dressing in red for the day, making red cakes, or taking part in red-themed," said Rick Libbey, director of the Prince's Trust Cymru.

"Helping young people to develop their skills, confidence and motivation is crucial to get them back into work or education. By simply raising money through red-themed activities, all of the organisations are helping young people in Wales get back on their feet."

Rick Libbey continues: "Every year, we need £3 million to carry out our work in Wales, all of which we raise from voluntary sources.

"It is only through fundraising initiatives such as Go Red that we are able to help so many disadvantaged young people in Wales.

"We are very grateful to those who agreed to take part in this year's appeal, and we hope that the activities will inspire even more people to get patriotic and Go Red!

"Importantly, any money raised in Wales will stay in Wales to help young people to turn their lives around."

For more information about The Prince's Trust or to take part in Go Red please visit www.princes-trust.org.uk/go_red.

St David's Day in the language of the Bible

by ALFRED MILLS

DURING Mr WGA Turner's reign as manager of Aberthaw and Rhoose Cement Works, he suggested a periodical about the works plans and activities would give pleasure.

The welfare officer, the late Mr John Malings, was entrusted to edit *The Channel* and be responsible for its success or otherwise.

It proved a great success and more than 110 issues were printed.

Mr Malings occasionally penned 'The Chronicles of the Scribe' in a few issues, using biblical language.

This particular one relates to St David's Day and the reaction of 'The King' to the missing daffodils...

And it came to pass in those days that the king commanded his servants saying: Let us make our abode a thing of beauty. Command that flowers appear upon our windows that all may enjoy them.

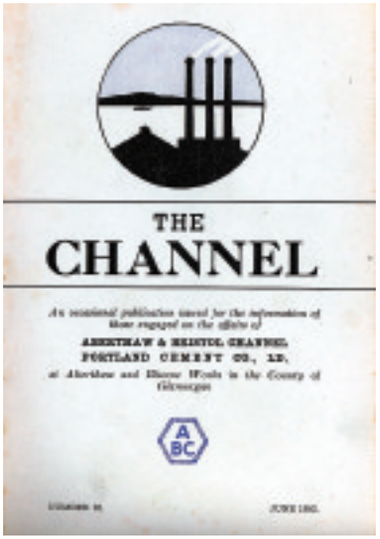
And his servants spake unto those which worked with iron and were skilled in the use of metals, saying: Make us now boxes of iron that we may fit them to the windows. And it was done.

Then were the boxes sent unto those which tilled the ground, and they filled them with bulbs, even with daffodils, so that the boxes overflowed. Then was the king pleased, and awaited the coming of the spring with joy.

And it came to pass that upon the last day of the month, even the month of February, three blooms appeared. Now the next day was a feast day, and the king arose, saying: Let us now see our blooms, whether they have prospered. And behold, they were gone.

Then was the king exceeding wroth, and his countenance was changed, and he sent for the damsel which played upon the typewriter and said unto her: Issue now an edict and have it copies many times, and distribute it among the people. Thus and thus shall ye write unto them:

Thus saith the king, that sitteth upon the throne: Who hath dared to put forth his hand and pluck the flowers which the king commanded to be planted? He shall verily be cast into outer darkness if he be taken.


THE
CHANNEL

ABERTHAW & BRISTOL CHANNEL
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Then certain of his servants spake softly unto him, saying: O my lord the king, let not they countenance be changed, neither take the matter thus to heart. Hath the king forgotten that it is the feast of St David? Peradventure one of they servants hath taken the blooms as an offering.

Did we not have many roses last year and not one of them was taken? Now, we pray thee, speak softly unto they servants; per-adventure it was a driver of one of the chariots which deliver they goods for thee, and not one of thine own servants.

So the heart of the king was softened and a gentle edict was issued, that the flowers were for all to enjoy and not for one to pick. And the flowers bloomed exceedingly so that they were good to look upon, and thus they remained many days.

Local historian Alfred Mills (aged 98) lives in Barry and is a regular GEM contributor.

Llandough inspection was followed by ward closure

A SNAP inspection at Llandough Hospital led to the closure of a ward because of poor cleanliness.

The "unannounced cleanliness spot check" was carried out by staff from the Healthcare Inspectorate Wales (HIW).

The inspectors called during refurbishment work at the hospital and found that "the general standards of cleanliness in the public corridors was poor and cluttered, with equipment and beds which were visibly dusty."

The inspectors went on to say that all the operating theatres, anaesthetic rooms and recovery areas were found to have "an acceptable standard of cleanliness."

However, some wards visited were found to have a poor standard of cleanliness, with high levels of dust. and issues in relation to estates were also identified.

The inspectors went on: "On ward East 8, we raised concerns in relation to the progress of an action plan, issued in May 2009, to address cleanliness and infection control issues.

"Following our visit, ward East 8 was closed for refurbishment. We have been assured that the issues identified will be addressed as soon as possible."

In a joint statement, University Health Board chair, David Francis, and chief executive, Jan Williams said:

"Cardiff and Vale University Health Board accepts in full the findings of the report published by Health Inspectorate Wales, following its unannounced cleanliness spot check at Llandough University Hospital in November 2009.

"We were disappointed that the standards of cleanliness found by the inspection team at the hospital were unacceptable and took immediate steps, including the closure of one ward (East 8) in order to make improvements.

"We are particularly disappointed that this failure, coming so soon after the new health board's formation, detracts from all the excellent work that is being done by our staff, day in and day out."

The statement continued: "We are determined that the cleanliness standards for our hospitals and clinics will be among the best, and the board is investing in a rolling programme of refurbishment at Llandough, encompassing both individual wards and the hospital more generally."

They added that more staff training would take place, and that an action plan had been put in place to tackle the HIW criticisms.

The statement concluded: "We give our full commitment to patients, staff and the public that we will not tolerate sub-standard levels of cleanliness at any of our hospitals or other premises."

Plaid call for St David's Day bank holiday

DR IAN JOHNSON, Plaid Cymru parliamentary candidate for the Vale, has called for a St David's Day Bank Holiday to be introduced.

Dr Johnson said: "March 1 is a special day for us in Wales and it should be a national celebration recognised by an official Bank Holiday.

"The United Kingdom, with eight days of bank holiday, has the lowest in the European Union, while the average across the 27 countries is between 11.5 and 12.5 days of bank holidays per year. Some have as many as 18.

"In Scotland, the Scottish Government gives workers the right to choose between taking a day off on St Andrew's Day, or a different holiday, while in Northern Ireland, there are two additional bank holidays more than the rest of the UK – a St Patrick's Day holiday and the 12th of July, the celebration of the Battle of the Boyne.

"Why is it that we are not allowed to hold a similar celebration here?"

FOOTNOTE: ***Should St David's Day be a national holiday in Wales? If you have a view, write to The GEM at the address given on page 2.***

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GWYNFOR'S 'GIFT FROM BARRY –TO WALES AND THE WORLD'

LEFT: *The ceremony was concluded with a musical performance from the talented pupils who comprise Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Baruc choir.*

ABOVE: *Father and son – Mr Alcwyn Evans, Gwynfor's son, with the bust.*

PHOTOGRAPHS by JOHN O'BEIRNE

ABOVE: *On the left, John Meiron Morris, the sculptor and Ray Smith, the carpenter*

LEFT: *Members of the committee which commissioned the work – Gwenno Huws, Geraint Evans, Mai Marley and Dulyn Griffith.*

G W Y N F O R EVANS, Plaid Cymru's first member of parliament who died in 2005, now has a memorial in the town of his birth.

On Sunday, February 28, a bronze memorial was unveiled of the famous patriot in Barry Library, King's Square. The work of Llanuwchllyn sculptor John Meirion Morris, the plinth was designed and made by Ray Smith, who worked in the National History Museum at St Fagans. Euryn Ogwen Williams composed the wording of the inscription. (*See end of article).*

The work was commissioned by a small committee formed by Mrs Gwenno Huws, former deputy head at Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Baruc, Barry – "It pained me to see that there was nothing whatsoever in Barry to remember one of the town's most well-known sons and one of Wales' leading statesmen.

"When I retired in July last year, I saw my chance to do something about it, so I set about establishing a fund to raise money for a fitting memorial to him.

"I'm very grateful to Mr Alcwyn Deiniol, Mr Geraint Evans, Mr Dulyn Griffith and Mrs Mai Marley for all their support," she added.

Enough money was raised at Mrs Huws' retirement to fund the work. In a farewell concert to her in July, disc jockey Aled Wyn Phillips and some of Wales' best-known artists – Y Tebot Piws, Heather Jones, Sioned Mair, Grug, Elen Rhys and Brigyn – gave their time, free of charge, to raise funds.

Sunday's ceremony was conducted by Mr Dulyn Griffith, head teacher at Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Baruc.

The memorial was officially unveiled by Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas, President of the National Assembly for Wales, who said:

"As a recent arrival in the Vale of Glamorgan, I am particularly honoured to be able to unveil this memorial, a bust of Gwynfor Evans, here in Barry, the town where he was born and brought up.

"Although he was a parliamentary candidate in Meirionnydd, and a number of other constituencies before succeeding in Carmarthen, he never lost sight of his vision of a united Wales where different areas and communities all contribute to the life of the nation – with the Welsh language, in the form of effective bilingualism, as a resource belonging to us all.

"It is wonderful that Barry has seen extremely successful Welsh medium schools established. No doubt the lively and varied commercial and social life of Barry influenced Gwynfor's classless view of society and his strong principles of equality."

The memorial was received on behalf of the residents of Barry by Coun Gordon Kemp, leader of the Vale Council.

The guest speaker was Professor Gareth Williams of the University of Glamorgan, who said: "I'm honoured to say that I, like Gwynfor, am from Barry and am a product of Barry County School."

The ceremony closed with musical performances by the choir of Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Baruc, accompanied by Mrs Delwen Williams on the piano and the soloist was Mrs Menna Roberts.

The bilingual inscription by Euryn Owgwen Williams, which appears under the bust, reads:

Asbri'r gwladgarwr
a'i ysbryd
yw'n rhodd ni o'r
Barri i'r byd.

His inspiration, like our banner unfurled,
is a gift from Barry to Wales and the world.

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE in brief

Cancer coffee morning

THE Mayor and Mayoress of Cowbridge with Llanblethian will be holding their monthly coffee morning in aid of Breast Cancer Care on Saturday, March 6 and invite everyone to join them in the Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall, for tea/coffee and cake between 10.30am-1pm. Admission £2.

Vale AM's surgery

THE Vale Assembly Member, Jane Hutt, will be holding a surgery at 115 High Street, Barry, on Saturday, March 6 from 10am-12noon. No appointment necessary.

Please call the constituency office on 01446 740981 for more information.

Ward surgery

VALE councillors for the Gibbonsdown ward, Rob Curtis and Margaret Wilkinson, will be holding a street surgery in the Monmouth Way/Slade Road/Orchard Rise area on Saturday, March 6, between 4pm-5pm.

Art and family

THREE Penarth artists will stage an exhibition at the Norwegian Church in Cardiff Bay on March 6-14, as part of the Women's Arts Association's celebration of International Women's Day.

Using her garden as a backdrop, Pauline Williams' acrylic paintings depict her children at different ages of their lives.

Shirley Anne Owen recalls watching her sons grow up to adulthood by making a large composite work based on family photographs.

Kay Keogh relates her work to a French poem by Guillaume Apollinaire. She devises her paintings in a narrative storyboard about motherhood.

Valeways walks

SUNDAY, March 7 at 2.30pm Pobl y Cwm walk at St Peter's Church, Peterston super Ely (ST 083764).

Tuesday, March 9, 1.30pm walk at Barry Island headland walk.

Start at the first aid post, Barry Island promenade.

Wednesday, March 17 at 1.30pm, Plas Llanmihangel Valley starting opposite.

Please note: walkers may encounter stiles, uneven surfaces, steep sections or soft, wet ground on some walks.

MOTHER'S DAY
Sunday 14th March
ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

'Be good and kind to mother...'

CELEBRATING Mother's Day has become one of our most cherished occasions.

After all, fathers tend to get a little uncomfortable if too much fuss is made. (Although a bottle of malt whisky is still a pretty safe bet).

However, the great thing about mums is that they really appreciate it when their children make a special effort.

That's why any son or daughter should give serious thought to treating mum at one of the area's many and varied restaurants to make a real occasion of that special day.

Go on, spoil her (and yourself).

PI

The FONTYGARY INN
FONMON RHOOSE
Open every day for home cooked food
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Sunday 14th March
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Open 9.00am - 1.00pm
on Mothering Sunday
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Sunday 14th March

MOTHER'S DAY

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Sunday 14th March

A reminder for Mother's Day

Pippa continues supplying special chocolates for all occasions...

Many of you know Cocoa & Co, the quaint little chocolate shop tucked away in Verity's Court. It was first opened in 2000 by Mary Roberts, who has recently retired. New owner and long-term employee, Philippa Tuckey, values the loyalty of existing customers and extends a warm welcome to all new visitors. The shop caters for diabetic, gluten and dairy free customers. In this hidden gem is a variety of freshly ground coffees, delicious ice creams and a range of wedding favours. The shop will continue to stock existing products along with **new exciting treats including chocolates for Mother's Day and Easter.**

Veritys Court, Cowbridge t: 01446 775729
e: info@cocoandco.co.uk www.cocoandco.co.uk

MOTHERS' DAY falls on Sunday, March 14 this year – so with this reminder there's no excuse not to make a fuss of the person who has invested more emotion into your life than anyone else!

Don't wake up on Mother's Day and think: "I wish I'd booked that meal out today," only to discover that everywhere is already booked solid.

Of course, you don't have to take Mum out specifically for a Sunday meal, but mothers do appreciate a day out with their sons or daughters, rather than a box of chocolates brought to the house.

So make it a day to remember – Mum won't be around forever!

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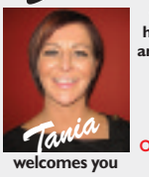
Book your appointment. Contact Tania on 01446 400535 where a warm welcome is guaranteed.

Diva's Hair Design



Tania welcomes you

Covering all aspects of high quality hairdressing and colouring techniques.

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7 Plas Cleddau, Cwm Talwg. **Tel. 01446 400535**

Cardiff antique fair returns on Mothering Sunday

THE Antiques and Collectors Fair is returning to a popular venue on Mothering Sunday, March 14 – The Copthorne Hotel, Cardiff.

The Copthorne proved an excellent host to the fair in the 1990s, and this year it will be held there from 10am-4.30pm.

There will be specialist dealers, antique dolls, Swansea and Nantgarw China, stamps and postcards, Sally Tuffin pieces, among them a rare Black Tiger Vase limited edition of 10 (this being No 4), militaria, Victoriana, Ditchfield Glass, plus other collectable glass, furniture, paintings and prints, clocks and books, jewellery, many excellent stands, something for everyone!

So browse the fair, and even book a spin in a vintage Rolls Royce, courtesy of Henrietta Cars.

Antique & Collectors Fair
at the **Copthorne Hotel, Culverhouse Cross, Cardiff**
Mothering Sunday, March 14th
10.00am - 4.30pm
Vintage Dolls, China, Militaria, Victoriana, Furniture, Art, Books, Glass and Lots more.
Telephone: 02920 512349

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Mother's Day
Sunday 14th March
Served 12 midday - 4pm
Starter, Main Course
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Sunday, 14th March
@ CAFE CONTINENTAL

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Sunday, 14th March, 2010
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Tonne of litter is collected after Five-Mile Lane 'blitz'

A TONNE of litter has been removed during a cleaning 'blitz' on one of the Vale's major roads, the borough council reports.

"A 'Magnificent Seven' team from the council's waste management and cleansing division collected the litter – approximately 80 orange bags – during a full day stint along Five-Mile Lane," a spokesperson said.

As well as food wrappers and general litter, the team removed items such as a garden table and chairs and fridge freezers.

The Vale Council cabinet member for visible and building services, Coun Geoff Cox, said:

"As usual, the team has done a thorough job and worked exceptionally hard, but there really is no excuse for littering.

"It is sheer laziness that people feel it is easier to throw things out of their vehicle window rather than take it home to be recycled, composted or binned."

ABOVE:
Litter picking team members are pictured at Five-Mile Lane with Coun Geoff Cox (left) and cleansing superintendent Tony Spear.

Tories deny Labour claims that they don't want Defence College

ALUN CAIRNS, Conservative candidate for the Vale, has refuted a fresh Labour claim that a future Tory government would jeopardise thousands of jobs earmarked for the Defence College at St Athan.

Alana Davies, his Labour opponent, claimed at the Welsh Labour Party conference that the Conservative Party does not want to see the construction of the £12 billion Defence Technical College (DTC) because of knock-on affects on military sites in eight Tory constituencies in England.

She said the construction of the college would impact on sites at Arborfield, Bordon, Blandford, HMS Collingwood, Cosford, RAF Cranwell, RAF Digby and HMS Sultan.

She added that the areas are all represented by Conservative MPs including John Redwood, Douglas Hogg QC and James Arbuthnot MP - Chair of the Commons' Defence Select Committee.

Ms Davies said: "Make no mistake about it, it would be absolutely disastrous if the Conservatives got into power and pulled the plug on the Defence Technical College after all the hard work that has gone into this.

"David Cameron has repeatedly declined to unequivocally support the St Athan project and only commits to a Strategic Defence Review.

"What good is that going to do the people of the Vale?

"I believe the main reason why he won't back it is because he knows it is unpopular with several of his Conservative colleagues who are not happy with work being transferred from their constituencies to south Wales.

"I urge the Conservatives to commit to this record investment, instead of half-hearted statements from David Cameron and Cheryl Gillan," Ms Davies concluded.

But Alun Cairns rebutted the claims and pointed out that in The GEM on January 14, he had said David Cameron was on the record as saying that everyone wanted the DTC to go ahead.

Commenting on the Labour claim, Mr Cairns said:

"This is completely untrue and my Labour opponent knows it. They are being dishonest and are treating people like fools.

"The GEM recently published our clear position in support of the Defence Academy.

"David Cameron is on record as having said that we are in favour in principle and in practice.

"I have been working closely with Metrix to ensure that they respond to local issues in the interests of the immediate communities.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT, 1990
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
DEDDF CYNLLUNIO (ADEILADAU RHESTREDIG AC ARDALOEDD CADWRAETH) 1990

NOTICE is hereby given that application has been made to the Council for planning permission for the undermentioned developments:

HYSBYSIR trwy hyn i geisiadau gael eu gwneud i'r Cyngor am ganiatâd cynllunio ar gyfer y datblygiadau canlynol:

Development in Conservation Areas
Datblygiad mewn Ardaloedd Cadwraeth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2010/00156/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Renewal of application 2005/00104/FUL for new dwelling
Location:/Lleoliad: 3, Bridgeman Road, Penarth
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Penarth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2010/00161/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Extension and alterations to dwelling as amendments to 2007/00137/FUL
Location:/Lleoliad: The Old Rectory, Bonvilston
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Bonvilston

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2010/00164/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Conservatory to front
Location:/Lleoliad: Greystones, Flemingston
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Flemingston

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 21 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at vog.planning-register.co.uk

Mae'r holl fanylion (gan gynnwys y cynlluniau) i'w gweld yn swyddfeydd Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y cyfeiriad ar waelod y dudalen) yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa, am gyfnod o 21 o ddiwrnodau. Cewch eu gweld hefyd ar Gofrestr Ceisiadau Ar- vog.planning-register.co.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
(GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 1995
GORCHYMYN CYNLLUNIO GWLAD A THREF
(TREFN DATBLYGIAD CYFFREDINOL) 1995

Application(s) that may be of General Public Interest
Ceisiadau a allai fod o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol i'r Cyhoedd

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2010/00140/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Extension to barn
Location:/Lleoliad: Rear of Willow Cottage, Treoes

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2010/00147/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Demolition of former hotel and construction of 17 two bedroom apartments and community facility including car parking and landscaping
Location:/Lleoliad: Sea Lawns Hotel, Slon Lane, Ogmore By Sea

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 21 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at vog.planning-register.co.uk

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TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
(ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT)
(ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS, 1999

NOTICE is hereby given that the Vale of Glamorgan Council, as Local Planning Authority, has determined the following application(s), having taken into account the information contained within the Environmental Impact Assessment accompanying the application(s):

2009/00021/FUL — Land accessed off of Atlantic Way within Barry Docks, Barry

Change of use from B2 - General Industrial Use to Sui Generis - Waste Use which would include operational development in the form of the construction of a gasification waste to energy plant for non-hazardous waste
Approved 23 December, 2009

2009/00500/OUT — Land at and adjoining MoD St. Athan in the Vale of Glamorgan, extending from the B4265 at Boverton in the west to Castleton Farm, St Athan, in the east, and from north of the runway and north of Castleton Road at St Athan in the south to land at the northern end of the MoD St Athan site at Picketston and up to Flemingston Road, St Athan, in the north; together with land adjoining the B4265 near Gileston and land at Waycock Cross, Barry.
Development of a Defence Technical College and associated facilities and works, including 483 Service Families' Accommodation dwellings, military external and field training areas, the alteration and reconfiguration of St Athan golf course, a hotel, an energy centre, improved parking and servicing facilities for the existing spar shop on Eglwys Brewis Road, the provision of a new access road and other associated highway works and improvements, including a garage for Rose Cottage, and all associated ancillary building, sports, community, ecological mitigation and enhancement, engineering, landscaping, means of enclosure and other works.
Approved 1 December, 2009

2009/00501/OUT — Land at and adjoining the Aerospace Business Park at St. Athan in the Vale of Glamorgan, extending from land adjacent to the B4265 at Boverton in the west to land adjacent to Cowbridge Road, St Athan in the east, and from the B4265 at Batslays in the south to land north of Boverton Brook in the north; together with land adjoining the B4265 near Gileston and land at Waycock Cross, Barry
Development at and adjoining the Aerospace Business Park, including: the erection of new and replacement buildings, airfield operational facilities and structures; the provision of access roads, hard standings and other infrastructure; security fencing; landscape and ecological works; garage for Rose Cottage; all associated building and engineering works; and related highway improvements
Approved 1 December, 2009

2009/00934/FUL — Land at Pant Quarry, St. Brides Major
Retrospective planning application to regularise past mineral extraction and associated operations
Approved 5 February, 2010

2009/00965/FUL — Hensol Castle, Miskin, Pendoylan
Proposed amendments to comprehensive mixed use redevelopment including conversion and extension of castle as hotel, conversion of ward blocks to residential use and restoration of walled garden
Approved 15 January, 2010

Documents and details of the decision, the main reasons and considerations on which the decision was based may be inspected free of charge in the Planning Department, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Offices, Barry Docks, Barry. CF63 4RT during normal office hours.

Dated: 4 March, 2010
Rob Thomas
Head of Planning and Transportation
The Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office,
Barry Docks,
Barry
CF63 4RT

Dyddiedig: 4 Mawrth, 2010
Rob Thomas
Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Swyddfa'r Doc,
Dociau'r Barri,
Y Barri
CF63 4RT

Local quiz and walk will boost Kidney Wales

A SPECIAL evening is being held at the Park Hotel on Friday, March 12 to raise money for the Kidney Wales Barry Walk for Life.

Gaynor Taylor told The GEM: "We're inviting people to join us at 7.30pm.

"We are holding a quiz night to boost the fundraising towards the Kidney Wales Barry Walk for Life.

"This night was a really fun night last year and helped us exceed our goal of £2,000 for the 2009 Walk for Life.

"Our target this year is £2,500. People can come along and have a fun night and can collect their sponsorship form for the walk at the same time.

"This year's Barry Walk for Life is on Sunday, March 28, at 11.30am and registration starts at 11am."

The Taylor family organise the walk as an annual tribute to Mr John Taylor, Gaynor's husband, who died on the morning of the 2006 walk, and to his son Richard Taylor, whose organs were donated to other people after his tragic accidental death in 2004.

Gaynor added: "Kidney Wales has now started the Donor Card Scheme and played a large part in the instigation of the Organ Donor Register.

" I would encourage people to register."

'Give more help to small businesses' – Plaid AM urges

VALE-based Plaid AM Chris Franks has called for a Venture Capital Fund, led by the UK Treasury, to help small local firms.

"I am calling for a Venture Capital Fund by the UK Treasury to help small firms.

Welsh entrepreneurs are sometimes unable to turn their ideas into sustainable business opportunities because of a lack of sufficient venture capital funds in Wales."

In the Senedd, he called on the First Minister to discuss with Ministers in London setting up a Venture Capital Fund to help small local firms.

The South Wales Central AM added: "Plaid wants the business environment in Wales to be far more helpful for Welsh companies."

Blood donors

THE Welsh Blood Service will hold donor sessions in the area next month.

Old Pioneers Hall, Beryl Road, Barry, Tuesday, April 13, 10am-12.30pm and 2pm-6pm.

Telephone 0800 252266, or visit www.welshblood.org.uk

LATCH will benefit from Barry Lions' charity fashion show

BARRY Lions Club is holding a charity fashion show at the Mount Sorrel Hotel to raise funds for LATCH – the Welsh children's cancer charity.

The president of Barry Lions, Mrs Nanette Langford, told The GEM: "We wanted to support LATCH because it is a deserving charity that is not highlighted as much as some others.

"The show is being held on March 20 at 7pm, and will feature fashions by Julie T of Penarth.

"Both formal and casualware will be on display and there are 70 tickets available."

It is the first time Barry Lions have held a fashion show, but they have a good record in living up to the organisation's motto 'We serve' by responding to both both local and international causes.

LEFT: David and Nanette Langford.

Nanette's husband David, a former president of the local branch himself, said: "We recently held an ABBA night at the Old School in Sully for Haiti, which included a cabaret and meal, and raised £1,000."

During the LATCH evening, Sian Howell, a trustee of the charity, will give a talk on the charity's work.

Sian said: "My daughter Bethan, who died in 1988, has featured on the charity's posters and became the face of LATCH.

"I became involved with the charity because they were so good to us, and I could see the good they were doing for other people too."

LATCH aims to ease the burden for families at a particularly stressful time in their lives. In its early years, it was located in Llandough Hospital with bungalows provided to enable parents to stay overnight to be near their children.

In 2005, it relocated to the Children's Hospital for Wales and accommodation was once again arranged for parents, brothers and sisters to be able to remain close to loved ones.

Sian emphasised: "LATCH has no paid fundraisers, just an administration assistant in the hospital in Cardiff. All the money raised goes directly to help the children and families in need."

Julie T fashion shop in Penarth will be giving a 10 per cent discount to anyone who produces a ticket from the show.

For more information, telephone 0845 833 6742.

Howell's School students are on way to Oxbridge

STUDENTS at Howell's School Sixth Form College are celebrating a mass exodus to Oxbridge.

Piers Kennedy (18) will be heading to St Peter's College, Oxford, to read music, where he has also been awarded a choral scholarship.

Jasper Warner, who has a place to read philosophy, politics and economics at St Hilda's College, is currently taking a gap year.

He gained grade As last summer in history, maths and physics at A-Level and a distinction in the advanced extension award in history to add to his As in AS biology and critical thinking taken the previous year.

He represented Wales in the World Debating Championships in Athens, where he was ranked in the world's top 10 debaters, and he was also a member of a group of four students from Howell's selected to represent the UK at the Junior 8 summit in Tokyo which ran parallel to the G8 summit.

Back left to right: Rachel Patel, Ellen Brookes, Rachel Thomas, Joseph Thorne. Front from left: Piers Kennedy, Eleanor Richardson, Camille Ivinson, Anna Sambrook.

Others who have had offers from Oxford are Camille Ivinson (18), who will read law at St Hugh's College, Rachel Patel (17), who has a place at University College to read medicine, Anna Sambrook (17), who will study German at Trinity College and Joseph Thorne (17), who will head to Corpus Christi College to read English.

Successful applicants to Cambridge University are Ellen Brookes (18), who will study natural sciences at Sidney Sussex College, Eleanor Richardson (18), who has a place at Magdalene College to read classics and Rachel Thomas (18), who has been accepted at Murray Edwards College to study for a degree in medicine.

SULLY BRIDGE CLUB RESULTS

The A team ladies with a combined age of more than 720 years and all still as sharp as the proverbial!

SULLY Bridge Club results for February 22 are as follows:

N/S – First, Pat Evans/Jayne Greatrex; Second, Brian Gardner/Pam Allen; Third, Roger Cradick/Derek Taylor.

E/W – First, Bunty Wiseman/Trish Tracy; Second, Anne Macdougal/Anne Hilary Jones; Third, Eileen Hughes/Tony Hall.

Wednesday, February 24: N/S – First, Pat Evans/Roger Cradick; Second, Betty Lewis/Trish Tracy; third, Ann Williams/Marilyn Jones.

E/W – First, Peter Blackwell/Tony Hall, Vaughan Shepherd/Brenda Shepherd; Third, Anne Johns/Eileen Hughes.

372 BARRY SQUADRON AIR TRAINING CORPS

First time fliers Grob their chance!

RECENTLY, Air Cadets Ryan Andrews and David Singleton of 372 (Barry) Squadron experienced the thrills and excitement of flying in the modern Grob Tutor aircraft at MoD St Athan for the first time.

Ryan and David both recently joined 372 Squadron and their feet have not touched the ground yet. Both cadets have gained their squadron marksman awards and are now looking forward to planned adventure training expeditions.

Both Ryan and David sat nervously alongside the pilot to experience the sensation of flying, and also the effects of g-forces on the body.

David not only enjoyed the flight, but also found out for himself how to fly the aircraft under the supervision of the pilot.

Afterwards he said: "Flying the aircraft was easier to control than I imagined. It was so cool, I can't wait for my next flight."

Several Cadets were also given an opportunity to see the world upside down, experiencing the thrills of stomach churning aerobatics!

The Cadets who flew were: David Singleton, Ryan Andrews, Marcus Cocks and Jermaine King.

Cadet David Singleton preparing for his first flight.

Ryan Andrews gives the thumbs up.

372 (Barry) Squadron have vacancies for boys and girls between 13-18 years old. The Squadron parade on Mondays and Wednesdays 7pm-9.30pm behind Adams Funeral Parlour (by the Memorial Hall). Telephone 01446 747734 or email 372@aircadets.org

JASON HORTON

NEWS FROM THE BARRIVALE BRIDGE

THE latest results from Barrivale Bridge Club are as follows:

Tuesday, February 9. Club mixed pairs championship, session two:

First, Noelle Bond and Mark Roderick with 65.63 per cent. Second were Diana Kendrick and Dave Thomas (58.93). Third were Jane Brook and Mike Close (55.95).

Handicap winners were Diana Kendrick and Dave Thomas.

Club Mixed pairs championship result:

First, Mark Roderick and Noelle Bond (62.31); second, Jane Brook and Mike Close (54.22); third, Huw Thomas and Celia Thomas (51.38).

The mixed pairs handicap winners were Huw and Celia Thomas.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. For more information, telephone 01446 733425.

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You can also enter by TEXT to BRO Radio on 82010 starting your message with BRO TROLLEY, including your name and DOB.
T&C's apply. Competition details available on request on 01446 240681 or on the website. Closing date for entries: midday Wednesday March 10th, late entries will not be included in the draw. Entrants must be 18 years or over.
The winner will need to be available on the evening of March 12th and the draw will take place midday March 10th on BRO radio 98.1fm.
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In Business Update

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Happy Chinese New Year workshop at Art Central!

ABOVE:
Vale AM Jane Hutt pictured at the Chinese New Year workshop at Art Central, Barry.

A GREAT time was enjoyed by all those who took part in Wendy Chong's Chinese New Year workshop, where children made an impressive range of lanterns and decorations in Barry's Art Central at the library in King Square.

Vale AM Jane Hutt came to view the artwork and congratulated all those who had made these half term workshops so popular.

Wales Wedding Photography offer a professional service

WALES Wedding Photography covers the whole of south and west Wales.

A spokesman explained: "We are a new company, but our photographers have over 20 years' experience in professional photography and portraiture. they are supported by a dedicated backroom team of photoshop professionals to create the very best photographs.

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"There are no hidden prices, and unlike many photographic companies, we do not rely on the up-sell of extras.

"We supply the customer with all of their edited and colour corrected images on disc, optimised and ready to print.

"The customer owns the copyright to their images and can use a lab of their choice, in their own time.

"Alternatively, we are more than happy to handle this for them at trade cost."

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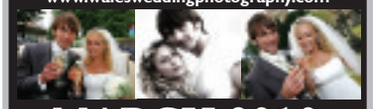

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VWBN award winner to be named at Senedd

JOIN us at the Oriel Gallery in the Senedd, Cardiff Bay to hear the name of the winner of the VWBN's first 'Spirit of Giving Business and Community Award' announced by the business network's patron Jane Hutt AM.

This is also an exclusive opportunity to view the beautiful and inspirational photographic collection 'Coast' by award winning fine art photographer and VWBN member Anna Proctor. For a glimpse of Anna's work, please visit her website: *www.annaproctorphotography.com*

Please note that this evening is open to VWBN members and their invited guests, by prior booking only. Please email members@vwbn.org.co.uk for more information.

For more information about the benefits of networking and joining the VWBN, please visit www.vwbn.co.uk

Vale Women's Business Network

VWBN Award and Photography Exhibition 'Coast'
Wednesday, 17th March 2010

at The Oriel Gallery, The Senedd, Cardiff Bay, 6 – 8pm.

This evening is open to VWBN Members and their invited guests by prior booking only. Please email members@vwbn.org.uk for more information.

With many thanks to: Jane Hutt AM and Latent Light.com for sponsoring this event.

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Contact Sarah Jones at Bridgend-Cardiff based RTL Solicitors, telephone 01656 665850.

Be kind to your feet, at ACE–Feet in Motion

CARDIFF-based podiatry company, ACE–Feet in Motion are expanding their services into the Vale.

Their new store in Llantwit Major is offering an extensive range of comfort footwear from leading brands – such as Hotter, Scholl, Cosyfeet and Padders, as well as a full range of foot health services.

If you are unable to cut your toenails, then ACE–Feet in Motion will be providing this service by appointment for £10.

To make an appointment for nailcare, or to see our HPC registered podiatrist, call us on 01446 790199. Alternatively, call in for advice, or just to browse.

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TRAVOLTA'S PARISIAN ADVENTURE IS FUN, HUGELY DAFT AND TOTALLY OVER THE TOP!

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

JOHN TRAVOLTA's career has had more ups and downs than the average Welsh Six Nations campaign: having blasted into public consciousness with the double whammy of *Grease* and *Saturday Night Fever*, he proceeded to mix up his bigger roles with such underrated fare as *Urban Cowboy* and *Blow Out*.

However, as Travolta's profile increased, so did his inability to pick the right projects; the likes of the *Look Who's Talking* franchise attesting to this.

Quentin Tarantino gave his career a shot in the arm with *Pulp Fiction*, and since then Travolta has managed to make the good (*Face/Off*), the bad (*Domestic Disturbance*) and the downright ugly (*Battlefield Earth*) as his career pinballs from highs to lows.

His latest film, *From Paris With Love*, sees him play Charlie Wax, an unconventional American spy who is teamed with James Reece (Jonathan Rhys Meyers), an employee of the US ambassador's office, who has ambitions of becoming a top-level spy.

As the pair try to work their way up the ladder of a drugs ring, James finds he has to put his life into the hands of Charlie, whose unorthodox attitude may prove more hindrance than help...

The career trajectory of John Travolta could also be applied to Luc Besson. Once one of cinema's most visionary directors, with the likes of *The Big Blue*, *Nikita* and *Leon* on his CV, he has spent the majority of the ten years or so writing and producing films of questionable quality, from the daftly enjoyable *Taxi* franchise to the weak *Unleashed*.

His most notable recent success, however, was with the guiltily superb *Taken*, and he teams up with that film's director, Pierre Morel, here, with Besson on producing duties and also being the creator of the film's story.

However, those hoping for more of the same with *From Paris With Love* will only be slightly sated; for while the wanton violence and action is ramped up in a similar fashion, there is far less to grab onto here, making it a ludicrously fun, if ultimately redundant slice of cinema.

One that isn't lacking is John Travolta, whose performance here might not be the most nuanced and subtle of turns, but it certainly fits into the fizzy nature of the film.

Sporting a bald head and a goatee beard, he reins in the more OTT tics of his character in *The Taking of Pelham 123*, and instead delivers a high-octane turn, low on subtlety, but big on dominating the screen.

Travolta's turn is big, with little in the way of 'quiet moments' that offer any depth to the character. When we first meet him, he is berating customs officials with wildly colourful language, and when we leave him, he is more or less the same character; there are no life lessons to be learned here.

Travolta, though, looks like he's having a whale of a time with the character, and that certainly is conveyed on screen, with the actor looking enthused and invigorated.

The same can't quite be said of Jonathan Rhys Meyers, who at least keeps up with Travolta while having little of his co-star's impact.

The actor is saddled with by far the duller role, and given that his performances often lack any palpable charisma, he at least offers a turn that more than matches that on the page and proves to be a superb foil to Travolta's wilder turn.

Director Pierre Morel certainly knows his way around an action set-piece, and *From Paris With Love* is littered with them, the shoot-outs and car chases not overly pushing the envelope but still executed with a wonderful dollop of chutzpah and style.

Certainly, the violence is ladled on thickly, but it is the norm for films of this type of genre. Indeed, come the final act's misplaced moralising on the importance of one life against a thousand, and whether violence begets violence, you are begging for a shoot-out to bring things back to excitement.

It is another assured outing for Morel following *Taken*, and will be interesting to see where he will be going from here, as he may be able to shoot bangs and crashes with aplomb; but when given a strong narrative hopefully he can maintain his focus, as this film has only the flimsiest of narrative premises.

While Luc Besson came up with the story, it was Adi Hasak who brought it to screen, and while he may have an inventive mind when it comes to the countless action moments, he doesn't waste much time on the story, with a plot twist that, though hardly telegraphed, isn't all that original either.

However, Hasak does deserve the tip of the hat for including a line for Travolta referencing a 'Royale with cheese', harking back to *Pulp Fiction* with a sly nod.

While not a cinematic highpoint (but was it ever going to be), *From Paris With Love* is still a hugely serviceable and enjoyable action film that is perfect 'leave-your-brain-at-the-door' fodder.

With a slight hint to further adventures for Charlie Wax, another trip to Paris wouldn't be so bad at all.

VERDICT - Hugely daft, incredibly over the top, yet shot through with enough high octane and enjoyment that it makes for an entertaining viewing. John Travolta's scenery-chewing spy gives the film a lively enough focal point, while Pierre Morel's way with a set-piece means that *From Paris With Love* is a film that you will forget about in the morning, but will be infinitely happier having taken in. *Enjoyable*.

CARYL IN DINAS

POPULAR Vale singer/songwriter Caryl Parry Jones will be performing at Dinas Powys Parish Hall on Friday, March 26 at 7.30pm.

The multi-talented singer is also well-known to viewers of S4C as an actress and was the Wales Children's Poet Laureate in 2007.

For tickets, telephone 029 2051 3274/029 2051 3046.

TORY SURGERY

DAVID MELDING, Conservative AM for South Wales Central Region, will be holding an advice surgery on Friday, March 5 at 29 High Street, Barry, between 10am-11.30am.

No appointments are necessary and all are welcome to attend.

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Mother's Day Traditional Sunday Roast plus Flamenco Guitar Player (12pm)

Saturday 20th March
Daz - Vocalist (9pm)

Saturday 27th March
Peter Sheriaden - Vocalist (9pm)

Friday 2nd April
Darryl Wyn - Guitarist/Vocals (9pm)

Saturday 3rd April
Supernatural Sound - Band (9pm)
A crowd pleasing band

Sunday 4th April
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Can you be entertained? Mixing it up a bit more this year. As well as cabaret nights on a Saturday we will be having some BANDS AND COMEDIANS plus a mixture of other acts on a Friday such as KARAOKE, THEME NIGHTS, BAND NIGHTS, COMEDY NIGHTS, even HYPNOTISTS and DRAG ARTISTS, there is something for everyone. It's the only place to go to over the Bank holiday weekends, with 3 big nights of entertainment. Keep an eye out for what's coming.

And to eat? We offer a great value MENU FROM ONLY £4.99 with traditional family favourites, plus some more unusual fayre too. Don't forget our Curry with a pint on Thursday evenings. It's been really popular, with home made curries changing weekly, plus the Thursday quiz. SUNDAY LUNCH FROM £6.95 offers exceptional value for a table served meal in relaxed surroundings without the hustle and the bustle of the usual carvery fare. You will need to be quick to book a table for Mothers Day. For this special day we will have a FLAMENCO GUITAR PLAYER to entertain you whilst you dine.

The location? With fantastic views from the cliff top overlooking the Bristol Channel, with views to The Knap and the historic islands of Steepholm and Flatholm, and on a clear day across to Weston, it is a great place to find refreshment with a large CLIFF TOP PATIO AND OUTDOOR SEATING. And yet only a 10 minute trip from Barry or Llantwit Major. What else? A LARGE CAR PARK and pleasant location makes us an ideal place to hold a wedding reception, birthday party, conference or any private function. Bookings are already being taken for the popular CHRISTMAS PARTY NIGHTS. In short, a great place, serving good food and good beer, with great atmosphere!

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Saturday 24th April
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Friday 30th April
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Out and About with The GEM

The Welsh Guards are on parade...

THE 1st Battalion Welsh Guards is taking part in parades across Wales this month, after returning to their base in Aldershot, from a six-month tour of Afghanistan.

The first parade in Cardiff today (March 4) also sees the launch of Armed Forces Day 2010, with the Welsh capital city having the privilege of being the national host.

On March 16, the Welsh Guards will parade through the centre of Bridgend.

In the summer of 2009, the Guards took part in some of the fiercest fighting Helmand has seen, in support of 19 Brigade during Operation Panther's Claw.

A spokesperson said: "The tour was not without sacrifice and their fallen comrades: Lieutenant Colonel Rupert Thorneloe, Major Sean Burchill, Lieutenant Mark Evison, Lance Corporal Dane Elson, Lance Sergeant Tobie Fasfous, Private John Brackpool (attached to Welsh Guards) and Guardsman Christopher King (attached to Welsh Guards) will never be forgotten,"

The Welsh Guards' itinerary on March 16 in Bridgend:

● 12.30pm step off at Recreation Centre, Angel Street to Civic Centre, The Rhiw, Queen Street, Caroline Street, Adare Street, Market Street, Queen Street, The Rhiw, Angel Street to Recreation Centre.

● 12.50pm Salute Point – Barclays Bank Queens Street.

● 1.15pm Finish Point – Recreation Centre.

Ty Hafan winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number 607.

● **£2000:** 626038.

● **The rollover, which now stands at £3,500 was not claimed this week.**

● **£10:**351651; 837081; 564912; 317931; 515290; 333361; 702257; 843475; 511225; 401780; 477279; 122770; 556349; 566451; 298061; 383559; 341590; 771724; 671567; 270604.

● **£5:** 152324; 225210; 349981; 204991; 838625; 376466; 118702; 834424; 329883; 307557; 669232; 296038; 151237; 269831; 256164; 906884; 667626; 133917; 613030; 783597; 798299; 239096; 719566; 214256; 151435; 576430; 562977; 272737; 706849; 423464; 309933; 735471; 783543; 985350; 376021; 645633; 558995; 267330; 549312; 208429; 613374; 262615; 666830; 415136; 879509; 376607; 176756; 353073; 115647; 793668; 440054; 108799; 507853; 389962; 819789; 309902; 659842; 169025; 263858; 206451.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

Win Girlguiding stamps in a great competition

GUIDES and brownies across Wales are celebrating 100 years of Girl Guiding by giving their stamp of approval to Royal Mail's philatelic tribute.

Young girls who attend weekly meetings of the movement in venues across Wales, have been helping Royal Mail launch the latest set of commemorative stamps Girlguiding UK issued this month.

Readers of The Glamorgan GEM can win themselves and their young Guiding families a set of the special stamp presentation packs to keep and cherish in our Royal Mail competition.

The stamps highlight the four age-groups of the organisation and celebrate the challenges, activities and games undertaken by youngsters at regular meetings held all over Wales and the rest of the UK.

All you have to do to enter the competition is answer the following question: *How many years of Girlguiding are being celebrated?*

A 100 years; B 50 years; C 10 years?

Send you entries on a postcard, marked 'Girlguiding competition', to The Glamorgan GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL, no later than Friday, March 12.

Judge's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into – good luck!

Mayor's charity coffee morning

THE Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan Council's charity coffee morning on behalf of St John Council, is being held at the Corporate Suite, Civic Office, Holton Road, Barry, on Tuesday, March 9 from 10.30am-12noon.

All proceeds will go to the St John charity.

Your chance to win some fabulous books!

TO celebrate Give a Book Week and World Book Day today (March 4), the Glamorgan GEM is joining forces with the Welsh Books Council and giving four lucky readers a selection of free books!

Six Nations Songbook.

Give a Book Week, organised by the Welsh Books Council to celebrate World Book Day, aims to encourage everyone across Wales to give a book as a gift to family, friends and colleagues, thus sharing the gift of reading.

We have two adult prizes and two children's prizes available. All you have to do, to enter is send your name, address and contact telephone number along with which prize you wish to be considered for – adult or children's – as well as stating if you would like English or Welsh-language books.

Send your entries, marked 'Book Day Competition', to The Glamorgan GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL.

The closing date is March 12, the judge's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

Good luck!

HISTORY TALK

THE Dinas Powys History Society will meet on March 9 in the Kynance Church Hall at 7.30pm when Dr Jonathan Hicks will give a talk and show slides on Barry and the Second World War.

For further information, contact programme secretary, Jan Gray on 01446 701273.

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On your marks for the Drovers' Run

ENTRIES are being sought for the Pencoed triathlon annual Drovers' Run on Sunday, March 14.

The challenging six-mile hill run starts from the Eagle pub in Brynna, past the wind farm and back.

Enter online at www.pencoedtri.org or contact Mike Hughes on 07800886183.

The Pencoed triathlon includes a six mile run.

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A Cowbridge Physic Garden Event
Gardeners' Question Time
in the St Quentin's Suite *at the* Bear Hotel, Cowbridge, Thursday, March 18th at 7.30pm

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The Big Chris Barber Band
Saturday 20 March @ 7.30pm
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This concert promises a superb, highly memorable evening in the magnificent Bradenstoke Hall in St Donats Castle. **Tickets: £24 & £22.50**

Other highlights for Spring/Summer!
Tickets now on sale for: **Beyond The Border Wales International Storytelling Festival** - Fri 2 - Sun 4 July. ■ **Shakespeare's Globe Touring Present "Comedy of Errors"** on Sun 29 August @ 6.30pm. **Tickets: £16 & £14.50**

Cinema for Spring
Time Travellers Wife (PG) 107 mins. Eric Bana, Rachel McAdams, Arliss Howard. Tues 9 March, Wed 10 March 1.30pm, 7.30pm. ■ **Dorian Gray** (15) 112 mins. Colin Firth, Emilia Fox. Tues 16 March, Wed 17 March 1.30pm, 7.30pm. ■ **Amelia** (PG) 111 mins. Hilary Swank, Richard Gere, Christopher Eccleston, Ewan McGregor. Tuesday 13 April, Wed 14 April. 1.30pm, 7.30pm. ■ **Bright Star** (PG) 119 mins. Ben Whishaw, Abbie Cornish, Kerry Fox, Paul Schneider. Tues 27 April, Wed 28 April. 1.30pm, 7.30pm.

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WEST END **£225,000**

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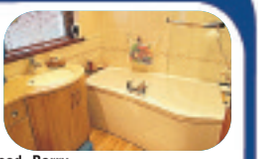

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- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Gardens

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H4U Reference 1039129
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- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Gardens

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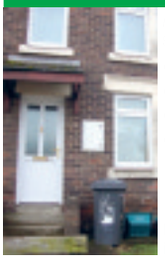
Chesterfield Street, Barry



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- Warden and alarm

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Dyfan Road, Barry

H4U Reference 1016779
Suitable for a family
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Gardens

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Grange Avenue, Wenvoe

H4U Reference 250409
Suitable for a single person, couple or small family – no pets
- Two-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £71.78 per week including service charge

Gwyn James Court, Penarth

H4U Reference 967973
Suitable for a single person over 55 – no pets
- Studio apartment
- First floor (no lift)
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Parking and warden
- Communal entrance

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Mariners Way, Rhoose

H4U Reference 1018300
Suitable for a family
- Two-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Gardens

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Merganser Court, Barry

H4U Reference 1023785
Suitable for a family
- Three-bedroom house
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Enclosed rear garden

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Pearce Court, Barry

H4U Reference 1039129
Suitable for a family
- Two-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Gardens

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Pendine Close, Barry

H4U Reference 219766
Suitable for a single person, couple or small family – no pets
- Two-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £70.59 per week including service charge

Robins Lane, Barry

H4U Reference 1039209
Suitable for a family
- Two-bedroom house
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Enclosed rear garden
- Drive

Rent £70.31 per week including service charge

Station Road, Rhoose

H4U Reference 247957
Suitable for a single person, couple or small family – no pets
- Two-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £71.78 per week including service charge

Ty Gwenfo, Barry (2)

H4U Reference 1039196
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- 2 x One-bedroom flats
- Ground and first floors
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Communal rear garden
- Parking

Rent £66.81 per week including service charge

Wellwood Drive, Dinas Powys

H4U Reference 1029512
Suitable for a single person or couple
- One-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Communal rear garden
- Parking

Rent £66.67 per week including service charge

FEEDBACK

Address	Bids	Band	Reg.
Arthur Davies Ct	5	Bronze	04/08/09
Dale Court	30	Gold	12/01/10
Ffordd Elin	75	Gold	21/10/09
Ffordd Elin	72	EMC	09/06/09
Gower Court	14	Bronze	15/10/08
Main Street	39	Silver	16/01/09
Phyllis Street	34	Gold	15/04/08
St Catherines Ct	29	Gold	01/10/09

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In Memoriam
HEATHER TROTT
Eight years on 6th March
On Bossington mountain you loved so much. Always in my heart.We miss you so much.
John & Family
xxx

DOT MITCHELL

of Llantwit Major, passed away peacefully on February 26, after a short illness.

Dearly-loved mother of Ian, Lynda and Sue, and much-loved grandmother and great grandmother.

Resting at the private funeral home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral at Our Lady & St Illtyds RC Church, Ham Lane, Llantwit Major on Wednesday March 10 at 2pm, followed by service at Coychurch Crematorium at 3.45pm.

No flowers by request please, but donations may be made to the Ladies Church Guild (cheques by arrangement with funeral directors 01446 710096).

WATHAN
Johanna Emma Verena

Peacefully with her family beside her on Friday 26th February. Much loved by all who knew her and now greatly missed by relatives and friends at home and overseas. Funeral service in St. Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major on Friday 12th March at 10.15am. All friends welcome (please dress with colour). No flowers but donations to Marie Curie Cancer Care gratefully accepted.

STEPHEN
Raymond James

Suddenly on the 1st March 2010, Raymond of Boverton. Dearly loved husband of the late Megan and loving father to Debbie, Mark and Nicola.

Resting at W.A.Brown & Son, College St, Llantwit Major until the funeral in St.Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major on Friday 12th March 2010 at 1.30pm, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 2.45pm. Family flowers only, but donations may be given to Parkinson Disease Society or Stroke Association c/o the Funeral Director (cheques only).

GITSHAM
Irene May

Peacefully on February 24, Irene aged 98 years, formerly of Lake Road East, Roath Park and Byron Court, Llantwit Major.

Beloved wife of the late Stanley, very special and dearly-loved Mum to Sue, mother-in-law to Keith, grandma to Julia, Heather, Jonathan and the late Rob.

Greatly missed by her loving family and friends.

Resting at WA Brown & Son, Llantwit Major, until the service in the Briwnant Chapel at Thornhill Crematorium on Tuesday March 9 at 12pm.

Family flowers only please, if wished donations for Help the Aged may be given to the funeral director (cheques only please).

GREEN
Harry

Ex-Steward of Llantwit Major Social Club. Peacefully at Llandough Hospital on February 26, aged 90 years. Adored husband to the late Kit, much-loved father of his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Resting at AG Adams & Son, Gladstone Road, Barry until the service on Friday March 12, 2010, at Thornhill Crematorium (Briwnant Chapel) at 9.45am. Family flowers only please. Donations to the Royal British Legion may be sent to the funeral home.

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Nan and Bampa xxx

ANYSHA PANESAR

Congratulations Nysh on being crowned as the new Miss Teen Wales!

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All our love, Mum, Dad, Toby and Dylan xxx

Birthdays

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KEVIN MILES

3rd March 2010
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Happy Birthday Grampy!
KEVIN MILES
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on March 3, 2010
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Happy Birthday
Dan MacIntyre
Congratulations on your 21st Birthday
with much love from Mum, Paul, Sarah, Nan & Grandad
XXXX

Retirement

PAUL TAYLOR
HAPPY RETIREMENT
To the best Bampi in the world. Now you are always home to play trains with me and I can crash yours (choo choo!)
I love your belly!
Lots of love DANIEL XXX

Paul Taylor
Happy retirement to the best Bampi ever!
Now you can spend even more time with me. Thank you for always being there for me.
Lots of love,
LUKE XXX

Paul Taylor
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Have a Healthy, Happy & Long Retirement. Now you can do all the jobs you had an excuse for (ha,ha). That includes all the jobs for the girls.
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NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 6
APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION
Proposed development at Flackwell Cottage, Tredodridge, Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan, CF71 7UL.

Take notice that application is being made by Mr Martin Dodwell to the Vale of Glamorgan Council for planning permission for: Town & Country Planning Act, 1990 (as amended). Change of use to residential curtilage and erection of boundary wall.
Application No. 2010/00030/FUL.
Any owner of the land or tenant who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Barry Docks, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, CF63 4RT within 21 days of the date of this notice.
Signed: Mr Martin Dodwell
Date 04/03/2010

Gareth Jones
are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £70,000 for
12 Beverley Street, Barry CF63 2HR
Anyone wishing to place an offer on the property should contact
Gareth Jones, 85 High Street, Barry CF62 7DX. Tel: 01446 744812
before exchange of contracts.

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE
Tom Prichard Contracting Ltd
of **Castellau Fach Farm, Llantrisant, Pontyclun, RCT, CF72 8LP.**
is applying to change an existing licence as follows:
To keep an extra **3** goods vehicles and **0** trailers at the operating centre at:
Castellau Fach Farm, Llantrisant, Pontyclun, RCT, CF72 8LP
Owners or occupiers of the land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be effected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Welsh Traffic Area Office, Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

Notice to Members of Bridgend Lifesavers' Credit Union Limited
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
to be held on
Monday, 29th March 2010 at 7pm
at **Sarn Lifelong Learning and Community Centre, CF32 9SW**
Nomination forms and further details available by contacting
01656 724895
Martin Hughes, Secretary, on behalf of Board of Directors

Engagements

Mr and Mrs Gordon Sivyer
of Penllyne, Cowbridge
are pleased to announce the engagement on February 14, 2010 of their youngest son
Mr D.N. Sivyer
to
Miss A.O.C. Duckworth
daughter of
Mr and Mrs Charles Duckworth
of Putney Heath, London

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NEWS FROM LLANDOW KART CLUB

Damp start to season but Llandow Kart Club finds sunny window!

The opening round of Llandow Kart Club's 2010 season got off to a damp start, but eventually took place in largely sunny conditions.

A 61-strong entry was slightly disappointing, but was buoyed by the inclusion of 15 novices, with everyone enjoying three heats of eight laps, with a 12-lap final to round out proceedings.

No red flags meant that the action rattled along swiftly on a day notable for the first running of the Bambino class, under MSA permit.

The new category was given four six-minute sessions on a 500-metre loop within the usual circuit, but a familiar name emerged at the top of the pile as multiple champion Macaulay Austin's younger brother Alex became first 'winner' after improving his lap time by six seconds over the course of the day.

Cadet Honda appeared to be going the way of Yousuf Ashraf after he claimed victory in all three heats, but it was Llandow debutant Ari White who scraped through when it mattered to take the final, Ashraf came home a close second, with novice Daniel Thomas a fighting third.

The heat wins in Cadet Comer were shared equally between Harry Williams, Ryan Anderton and Harrison Thomas and the same trio completed the final podium, with Williams taking top spot by a kart length after a late pass on Anderton.

Jack Barber claimed Cadet WTP honours, while Lloyd Sealy dominated Cadet Honda with a double heat win and final victory. Daniel Jones was a close second in a five-kart grid, with defending champion Jamie Warren third.

Triple heat winner Sebastian Hutchinson looked to have swept the board after taking the Junior TKM 2-Stroke final on the road, but was later disqualified for writing the wrong engine number on his scrutineering card!

That handed the win to Sam Morgan, with Cadet Honda graduate Ross Chell taking second.

Zach Jones appeared as dominant as Hutchinson as he won heats two and three in Junior TKM 4-Stroke and then romped to victory in the final, as defending champion Andrew Davies spun.

Liam Jones was then running second, but had his kart quit under him, handing second back to Davies.

Macaulay Austin made it a family double after bouncing back from a first heat DNF to win races two and three, before taking the final from Cadet graduate James Williams.

Williams pushed hard throughout but almost saw his hard work undone as Morgan Rose closed in at the end.

A 10-strong Junior Rotax proved unable to deny defending champion Joshua Collings from taking two heat wins and the final, although Josh Gray was a close second in the main event, with Oliver Pidgley just behind in third.

Bridgestone-mounted Simon Evans won an epic Senior Honda encounter after overcoming defending champion and Dunlop runner, Gareth Lewis, after a sensational day of racing. Ferdinand Ball finished third.

Another big grid graced the Senior Rotax class, and proceeded to serve up a thrilling final as Chris Davis charged from third to first in the last two laps to claim the win from Matthew Dowers and long-time leader Shaun Fulford. Fulford and Dowers claimed heat wins, along with Ashley Davies.

The Rotax 177 class returned to Llandow after making its debut at last December's Celtic Championships, and saw Nigel Hughes assume control during the wettest conditions.

However, it was Wayne Stone who came through to claim the final, setting a new lap record in the process. Hughes was left to take second, with Richard Phillips third.

RESULTS:

BAMBINO
1. Alex Austin

CADET HONDA
1. Ari White (Project One)
2. Yousuf Ashraf (Project One)
3. Daniel Thomas (Project One)

CADET COMER
1. Harry Williams (Zip)
2. Ryan Anderton (BRM)
3. Harrison Thomas (Zip)

CADET WTP
1. Jack Barber (BRM)

JUNIOR HONDA
1. Lloyd Sealy (MS)
2. Daniel Jones (MS)
3. Jamie Warren (Jade)

JUNIOR TKM 2-STROKE
1. Sam Morgan (Intrepid)
2. Ross Chell (Tony)
3. Sebastian Hutchinson (Intrepid)

JUNIOR TKM 4-STROKE
1. Zach Jones (Jade)
2. Andrew Davies (Jade)
3. Liam Jones (Jade)

MINI MAX
1. Macaulay Austin (Maranello)
2. James Williams (Tony)
3. Morgan Rose (Tony)

JUNIOR ROTAX
1. Joshua Collings (CRG)
2. Josh Gray (CRG)
3. Oliver Pidgley (Alonso)

SENIOR HONDA
1. Simon Evans (7Kart)
2. Gareth Lewis (7Kart)
3. Ferdinand Ball (MS)

SENIOR ROTAX
1. Chris Davis (Storm)
2. Matthew Dowers (Tony)
3. Shaun Fulford (CRG)

SENIOR ROTAX 177
1. Wayne Stone (Tony)
2. Nigel Hughes (RedSpeed)
3. Richard Phillips (Tony)

Best Novice: James Johnson (Mini Max)

Driver of the Day: Louis Griffith-Walker (Cadet Comer)

CRAIG LLEWELLYN/ HENRY BEAUDETTE

Bright hat trick seals the Llantwit victory

by MARK ROSCOW

HAVING spent 20 minutes clearing the dog mess from the pitch Llantwit were able to get on with another home fixture, this time against the high flying Master Mariner.

The Mariners are currently second in the league and enjoying a good run of form but they were aware that the Major were also unbeaten for 10 games.

Major enjoyed the best of the early exchanges and Tracy, in one of his advanced positions, was close to opening the scoring but failed to hit the target. The opposition started to come more into the game and the central midfield had to work hard to keep on top.

The opening score came following a bizarre decision from the referee, who allowed a clear foul on Jennings to go, and then awarded a penalty much to the surprise of all the players.

The penalty was dispatched and the Major were one down.

The sprit within the team showed through and the equaliser came following good work from Mawhinney and Jennings with a deep cross being firmly headed into the net by Craig Bright.

It was clear that Tracy was struggling with an injury and had to leave the pitch with Gahan coming into the midfield following a reshuffle.

Good defensive work from Gethin Jennings kept honours even.

The experience of Shaw and Grafton was showing through as they both showed the class that sets them apart at this standard of football as they strolled through the game with ease.

The rest of the first half was quite even with Llantwit continuing to try and play the football and Steve Phillips working hard in the lone striker role.

Honours were even at half time and the second half began in much the same way as the first half had finished.

It was the home team that were playing the better football and the opposition keeper who was the busier as he made a number of fine saves to deny Phillips Major and Gahan.

Llantwit were to be rewarded for this fine free flowing football when Bright broke through and finished off in style to give Major a well deserved lead.

The Mariners came fighting back as they pressed for an equaliser and yet again it was to come via the referee who awarded them a second penalty again much to the surprise of the players and watching crowd.

Sheerer got hands to the penalty but was unable to stop it crossing the line.

The home team were determined to win the game and pressed forward looking for a winner.

It was that man Bright who was to once again provide the inspiration to finish off a great free flowing move involving Grafton Shaw and Major.

The pitch was taking its toll and Lansdowne and Dom White were introduced to provide some fresh legs. This proved a good decision as the home team were put under relentless pressure as the visitors pushed for the goal that would have secured a vital point as they press for leagues honours.

As the final whistle loomed it was the home side who broke away but the opportunity passed.

The final whistle did eventually come after a remarkable 51 minutes and the home side had earned a deserved victory.

The man of the match honours went to Craig Bright for his first hat trick in Llantwit colours.

Series of games at Llanishen for Cowbridge juniors gives great entertainment

UNDER-12s

Cowbridge under-12s played their best half of rugby this season during the first 30 minutes against Llanishen, going in 43 - nil up at half time.

The strength of the pack combined with the excellent link work of the back-row trio of Josh Brace, Luke John and Ben Jones provided quick ball for the Cowbridge backs to exploit ruthlessly.

Tries by elusive scrum half Tom Lucas (three) and Tom Trotman (three) put Cowbridge on top. The midfield of Matt Harper, Ashford Phillips and Hywel Williams defended superbly against their hefty midfield opponents, with Jonny Harvey and Rob David bravely having to go down on balls kicked through by the opposition when they realised that they could not run through the Cowbridge centres.

It was not a day solely for the backs with George Thomas (prop) and Jac Davies (second row) weighing in with tries after relentless drives from the pack, with Owain Thomas Jenkins, Tom Evans and Frazz McGann in powerful form.

Cowbridge made a number of changes in the second half with excellent performances from Cai Thomas Jenkins, Tom Whitehouse, Huw Bennett and Liam Sloane, with Harvey Stockwell scoring an excellent try from the wing to take the try tally for Cowbridge to nine.

The Llanishen team fought hard throughout the game and were rewarded with three second half tries.

A thoroughly enjoyable game and thanks to Llanishen RFC for their post match hospitality.

Final score: Llanishen 17 Cowbridge 55.

UNDER-11s

Cowbridge under-11s travelled to Llanishen and lost a close encounter by 28 – 12.

In heavy conditions, the Llanishen pack eventually began to dominate and, despite some brave tackling from Duncan Ace and James Holder, the home side scored the opening try.

Only an excellent try-saving tackle from centre Rhys Barnard prevented Llanishen scoring again on the stroke of half time.

The second half saw Cowbridge make a number of changes but this did not prevent Llanishen increasing their lead with another converted try.

The visitors fought back with some good inter passing between Osian John and Cai Evans leading to a fine try by back-row forward Dan Bunney, which was converted by Seán Davies.

However, the Llanishen backs were able to increase their lead with another well-taken try, and Cowbridge were unable to penetrate the opposition defence.

Eventually, a good run by Ollie Rampling set up a ruck from which Henry Jones scored to reduce the lead, giving Cowbridge a glimmer of hope.

These hopes were dashed in the final minute when Llanishen scored again to win a tough encounter and leave Cowbridge to rue only their second defeat of the season.

UNDER-10s

COWBRIDGE under-10s played Llanishen away, where they were expecting an extremely tough challenge.

It was the first game between the two sides since the epic district semi-final last season when Cowbridge triumphed by the narrowest of margins.

The early action saw Cowbridge attempting to win quick ball to release their talented back line, with Llanishen relying heavily on their much bigger pack.

As the game settled, the Cowbridge forwards began to dominate and, while securing their own ball, they fashioned several good turnovers. From a series of phases, the forwards sucked in the opposition back line and released Rhydian Williams to open the scoring.

From the restart, Evan Williams ran the ball deep into the Llanishen half. Once again, the superb front five of Max Lucas, Max Cunnington, Sam Corkill, Jac Roberts and Bevan Howells were on hand.

Ioan Lewis then released Bevan Howells to power over and double the lead. Cowbridge pressed to increase the lead and the ball was fed down the blind side for Rhydian Williams to outpace the defence before leaving the last defender grasping thin air with a sublime side step.

As the half time whistle blew Cowbridge had secured a 15-0 lead.

As expected, the second half would prove to be extremely difficult playing up the slope. Play saw Cowbridge camped in their own 22 early on and despite some superb defence Llanishen forced their way over to narrow the gap.

Llanishen then scored again to leave a very nervy last eight minutes. However, Cowbridge then dominated the play and forced Llanishen on to the back foot.

As time ran out the ball was kicked dead and Cowbridge had held on for a superb win.

Final score: Llanishen 10 Cowbridge 15.

DEVELOPMENT SQUAD

The development squad then took to the field to face their opponents. Llanishen kicked off with the advantage of the slope and dominated, once again using their bigger forwards to press deep in to the Cowbridge 22.

From a good drive they opened the scoring to lead 5 – 0, soon followed by another try.

At this point, heads could have dropped, but this Cowbridge outfit are made of stern stuff and so began a fine comeback.

Forwards Dan Taylor, Jake Griffiths, Cameron Roy, Tom Jose and William Davies were superb as they drove deep into opposition territory.

This gave the excellent Oliver Reynolds time to release Rhys Davies and the flying winger raced away to narrow the lead.

The forwards carried on from the end of the first half and, as a maul rumbled slowly towards the opposition line, Dan Taylor emerged with the ball and levelled the scores.

With their tails up, Cowbridge moved the ball through the back line and James Guard, Tom Coates and Angus James all made good ground, and Cameron Roy burst clear to touch down and take the lead for the first time.

From the restart, Llanishen levelled with an excellent score of their own. This would prove to be a temporary blip and, after superb work by all the forwards, Jake Griffiths capped a superb performance with a deserved try followed by one from Angus James to race in at the corner for a 25-15 lead.

Finally, from another turnover, Oliver Reynolds released Rhys Davies, who touched down for a wonderful solo effort. The final whistle blew with a final score of **Llanishen 15 Cowbridge 30.**

UNDER-7s

A squad of 12 under-7s made the trip to Llanishen for a round robin with the home side and Llandaf. As with the full Wales team, the boys seem intent on giving the opposition a good head start!

The first game was played against Llandaf and the boys gifted too much possession and made mistakes until they woke up, defended in a line and scored a couple of good tries. **Final score 4 - 2**.

The second game against the home side was a good exercise in tagging as the boys were given a minimal time with the ball and went down 7 - 0 to some fine individual tries. An extra game was played against Llandaff and the practice in tagging and defending in the previous game paid dividends as the final score was a creditable 0 -0 draw.

Squad:- Ioan Davies, Ben Farrell, James Gilvear, Matthew Gilvear, Owen Godsall, David Harris, Robbie Hawkins , Ellis Howell, Oliver Jarmaine, Aled Leitch , Dewi Lloyd, Charlie Lock.

ML

CALLING ALL CLUB OFFICIALS!

The GEM welcomes your match reports, and other club items of interest. Email them to:
ggem@internet-today.co.uk

NEWS FROM BARRIVALE BRIDGE CLUB

THE latest results from Barrivale Bridge Club are as follows:

Tuesday, February 23.

First were Mike Close and Mick Green with 64.58 per cent, with Irene Thomas and Graham Jones (64.06) in second place.

Joint third were Alan Jones and Lyn Matthews, and Noelle Bond and Joan Jenkins with 52.60.

Irene and Graham won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. For more information ring 01446 733425.

CAPTAIN GINO DRIVES IN AT THE FIRST MEETING OF FARMERS' GOLF SOCIETY

The new captain 'drives in' at Southerndown Golf Club.

ABOVE: Meirion Chestney, competition sponsor Glyn Watts-Jones, winner Clive Edwards and society captain Gino Cocco.

Gino Cocco and guest Gerry Davies.

Martyn and Carol David.

Lindsay and Mary Llewellyn.

Ray Howells, Griff Morgan and Keith James.

THE first meeting of the season for members of The Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society was held at Southerndown Golf Club, where 45 members and guests gathered to see the traditional 'captain's drive-in' by recently elected captain Gino Cocco.

Despite the added pressure of being surrounded by supportive colleagues, Gino hit the perfect shot up the fairway to a distance correctly guessed by Llantwit Major farmer Brian Jones, who collected the captain's prize.

With near-perfect playing conditions and a course in excellent condition, it was no surprise there was very little between the leading players, with scores on the back nine again proving the deciding factor.

Retired butcher Keith James with 33 points (17 on the back nine) secured fourth place, just ahead of Keith Wilding (14 on the back nine).

Andrew Thomas with 34 points (14 back nine) finished third, while Coun Raymond Thomas (17 back nine) took second place.

The overall winner, also with 34 points (17 on the back nine) was Colwinston farmer Clive Edwards, who collected the Glyn Watts-Jones Cup from the day's generous sponsor Mr Glyn Watts-Jones.

This was Clive's first individual success since joining the society and it was pleasing to note the first winner of this competition was Clive's late father, Griff, who was successful in 1988.

Guest section

The guest section was won with 34 points by Meirion Chestney, who was also successful in winning the 'James the Butcher' sponsored longest drive competition.

Barrie Melhuish finished runner-up with 31 points.

Nearest the pin on the par three holes were Bryan Wadham, president Geraint Davies, Keith James and society captain Gino Cocco.

Julian Kelly won his first prize of the year when correctly guessing 30 balls would spend the rest of their days covered in thick gorse to collect the Premier Turf sponsored prize, which resulted in £80 being raised for The Royal National Institute for The Blind.

Pleasing to report that temporary relief from the credit crunch was gained for Islwyn Rees, Gwyn Evans, John Caines, Neil McLean and Barrie Melhuish. All picked up £10 as a result of getting a 'two' on their card.

The society's annual dinner was held recently in the Heronston Hotel, Bridgend. *(See pictures above right).*

Congratulations to John and Janet Davies of Llantwit Major who recently celebrated their Golden Wedding.

John is a founder member of the society and was captain in 1992.

The society's next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 25, at St Andrews Major Golf Club.

TMcC

Vale Schools take charge

WITH the sun shining, the Vale Schools took on their counterparts from Merthyr on a field that in places resembled the Somme.

In spite of the conditions, both sides tried to run the ball, but there were many handling errors by both sides.

The Vale forwards had the edge over the Merthyr pack and from a scrum on the 22, the ball was passed to Cai Evans. He made a break but was tackled and the ball was picked up by Joe Short who ran in for aa unconverted try.

The Vale forwards continued to dominate up front but bad handling and good tackling from Merthyr kept them at bay.

As the half drew to a close, Vale were awarded a penalty five metres out, and from a quick tap and go, Spencer Robinson managed to stretch out and score. The try was converted by Cai Evans, for a half-time score of 12-0 to the Vale.

On the restart,from a line-out on halfway, Joe Short took the ball and drove upfield. He was tackled on the 22, but laid the ball back for Owain Jenkins to pick up and drive as far as the five-metre line.

The ball was won by the forwards and passed along the line to Cai Evans who broke through to score.

Merthyr picked up their game for a while but good tackling from the Vale backs kept them at bay. It was inevitable that the Vale would score again, and from a ruck on the halfway line, Joe Short picked up and broke through to score his second.

From the kick-off, the Vale forwards went on a run that took them as far as the Merthyr five-metre line, and from the resulting ruck Mitchell Smyth picked up and drove over for the try.

The final score was 31-0 to the Vale.

The Vale would like to thank Merthyr for travelling for the game and thank the parents who provided the food.

STEVE JONES

School creates impression with gymnastics success!

YOUNG gymnasts from Ysgol Bro Morgannwg created quite an impression at the Cardiff and Vale gymnastics championships, with a string of impressive results.

The year-7 and 8 boys' team, and the year-9 and above girls' team were victorious, with the year-9 and above boys' team in second place, and the year-7 and 8 girls' team in third place.

Individual successes in their respective age categories came from Iwan Mepham (first), Ffion Byrne (second), Rhidian Mepham (third), and Elinor Lewis (second).

The gymnasts.

Flint's Chepstow double

RHYS FLINT from Kenfig Hill landed a double at Chepstow races last Saturday when winning on Crannaghmore Boy and Star Galaxy.

The latter is trained by Rhys's father John Flint. There was more local success when Llancarfan trainer Evan Williams scored with 14-1 outsider Oscar GoGo and Ogmore's Christian Williams won on Mister Quasimodo.

BRIAN LEE

Llantwit Major swimmer in good early-season form

A PUPIL at Llantwit Major Comprehensive, Balazs Vincze, recently competed in the Swim Wales national swim meeting.

This event was part of the British Gas GB versus Germany swim programme in the Swansea national pool, and Balazs finished an impressive third in 200m butterfly, third in 100m butterfly, and second in the 50m butterfly.

Balazs is hoping for similar success in the up-and-coming WASA Swim championships in April.

Balazs Vincze.

YMCA GYMNAST EMMA NOTCHES GOLD MEDALS

ABOVE: Barry gymnasts took park in the Welsh championships.

LONGSTANDING club member Emma Worrall (age 14) competed in the 14+ age group in a Welsh junior event and showed how her gymnastic skills have matured over the years.

She claimed the overall title and also claimed gold medals on floor and bars, and placed fourth on beam and fifth on vault.

Her training partner Caitlin Allin (age 13) had similar success in the 12/13 category where she claimed the overall silver medal. Caitlin became the novice floor champion and also claimed another three medals by placing third on vault, bars and beam.

In the 10/11 years category, Barry were represented by Megan Brown, Nia Fenn, Chelsea Slack and Catrin Megan Davies. The quartet worked well together as a team, competing many new skills, which assisted them in claiming the bronze medal in the team event.

Catrin Megan Davies also had success in the individual apparatus events claiming another bronze on floor and becoming the bars champion. She was placed fourth overall, narrowly missing out on the title due to a fall off the beam.

Barry had the largest representation from across Wales in the youngest 8/9 years age category.

Catrin Long, Chloe Sullivan, Ellie Peterson, Ellice Stockford, Elisha Watkins, Ffion Jackson, Freya Parker, Megan Hopkins, Megan Sully, Seren Mirza Davies, Sophie Birkin, Tia Ali and Tia Dewitt all had a great time competing, many for the first time in a Welsh voluntary competition.

The teams placed fifth, sixth and ninth. Barry had three gymnasts in the top 12 in this age group.

Ellice Stockford had a particularly good competition, placed fourth on floor, sixth on bars and eighth on vault. She was placed seventh overall, narrowly missing out on an all-round medal due to a fall off beam.

Tia Ali, placed ninth overall, placing eighth on floor and beam. Freya Parker was placed seventh on beam and 11th overall.

Well done to all gymnasts and special thanks to their coaches.

Young stars Emma and Caitlin.

Llantwit Major under-9s are outnumbered

LLANTWIT MAJOR under-9s played host to Penarth RFC on Sunday morning with only seven who gave their all.

The boys did have a few breaks from on-form Jac Wisendon but Penarth used the boggy pitch to their advantage, driving to score two tries.

Llantwit did improve in the second quarter, with Dom Henson bashing his way through the Penarth pack. But against the run of play Llantwit conceded another try to make it 3-0 to the visitors.

Llantwit started the third quarter brilliantly all guns blazing with Jac Wisendon dummying and dodging his way over the line. Llantwit then started to play the 'ugly' rugby which they're not used to playing, with Joss Harris and Harry Bluck spending more time on the floor fighting for the ball.

If there was an award for the player covered in the most mud it would have to go Joss Harris, I feel sorry for his mother having to wash those clothes!

Llantwit got the ball to William Cummings Jones who smashed his way over. Harry Black then scored to make it 3-3, but Llantwit conceded a further two tries near the end to make the final score 5-3 to the visitors.

The boys played very well and gave it their all. **LLANTWIT MAJOR RFC under-9s are seeking new players to join the team.**

Earlier last year, the Scarlets invited Llantwit to the opening game of the season where the boys played in front of 10,000 people at half time.

They had a training session with Matthew Rees (British Lions and Wales hooker) and Regan King (New Zealand) at the newly-built barn where they all had lots of fun.

Llantwit also have a good committee who are always looking at new ideas such as tours and trips out of the rugby season.

For more information contact Chris Pilcher on 07896012584 or Tim Jones (director of rugby) on 07876567509, or come to training on Sunday morning at 10.am at the Rec.

CP

Reserves get shirty – in best possible taste, of course!

DINAS Powys Rotary Club have recently donated polo shirts and training tops for Dinas Powys FC reserve team.

Reserve team captain Danny Brown and his team, are pictured here with Rotarian Tim Hubbard and club president David Wiltshire.

Club player Marc Mills pictured with Rotary president David Wiltshire, joined Dinas Powys FC as a nine-year-old and has progressed through the teams. He is now a regular for Dinas Powys FC Reserves, playing in the Welsh Reserve League.

ABOVE: Dinas Powys reserves. BELOW: Marc Mills and David Wiltshire.

Vale pupil Ellen is a rising badminton star

A RISING star of Welsh badminton is aiming to reach the pinnacle of her sport with a helpful volley from the Vale Council.

Thirteen-year-old Ellen Mahenthiralingam, from Dinas Powys, is one of 20 elite athletes from the county whose sporting ambitions are being supported this year by the Vale Council's Sports Academy Scheme.

Overseen by the council's leisure and tourism department, the scheme gives members free use of the council's leisure facilities to help with their training needs.

Ellen, who started playing badminton at seven, currently trains four times a week, with two of those sessions on the courts at Cowbridge Leisure Centre with her coach Chris Rees.

The Vale Council's cabinet member for leisure and tourism, Coun Anthony Ernest, said: "We are delighted to support talented individuals to reach their potential on a national and international stage within recognised sports. The Sports Academy Scheme has been running for a number of years in the Vale and supported athletes such as Nicole Cooke earlier in their careers."

Ellen's proudest achievement in badminton so far is winning the under-11 and under-13 Welsh junior titles in singles, doubles and mixed doubles, and she will be travelling to Belgium in April to play in her first European tournament.

A pupil at St Cyres Comprehensive School, Ellen also plays tennis and hockey and runs for the school's athletics team. Her sister Joanna (15), also took up badminton at a young age and has teamed up with Ellen to play doubles competitively in Wales and England, winning several tournaments.

Her parents also play a lot of badminton and golf, so hitting things definitely runs in the family!

Delighted with the support her daughter is receiving from the council, Ann Mahenthiralingam said: "The Vale Council's Sports Academy Scheme has been invaluable in allowing Ellen access to courts and training facilities in the Vale.

"With coaching and travel to tournaments, the cost of developing Ellen's badminton skills are high and it is great to have this extra support from the council.

Coach Chris Rees passes on advice to Ellen during a training session on court at Cowbridge Leisure Centre.

Power cheque for bowlers

A CHEQUE for £250 was presented to the South Vale District Bowling Association that brings together 15 bowling clubs from across the south Vale – from Llantwit Major, Penarth, Sully, Cowbridge, Rhoose and Barry from Aberthaw Power Station.

The main competition is the Alun Martin Memorial Cup and the donation will be used for the 2010 final.

"We are most grateful for the generous donation, which allows our competition to run for another year," said SVDBA treasurer Mick Mason.

Aberthaw Power Station production manager Richard Little (centre) is pictured presenting the cheque to treasurer Mick Mason (left) and secretary Dave Johnes (right).

Beth's Chesnut Annie lands Dunraven prize

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

***Chesnut Annie*, a nine-year-old chestnut mare qualified with the Llangeinor Hunt, gave owner/trainer Beth Roberts her biggest success to-date when landing the valuable Dunraven Foxhunters' Hunter Chase at Ffos Las Racecourse last week.**

Chesnut Annie was enterprisingly ridden by Isabel Tompsett, who recently chalked up her 50th winner between-the-flags on the prolific mare, who led from the start, and who won unchallenged by 20 lengths from *Crystal D'Ainay* in a top class field of 14 runners.

Meanwhile, *Hucking Hero*, a 25-1 winner of a novice hurdle for Aberthin's Tim Vaughan earlier this month, landed the Breathe Spa At Marriot Handicap on the flat over one mile and five furlongs at Lingfield Park last Friday.

Ridden by Pat Cosgrove, *Hucking Hero* was backed to 7-2 favourite.

● Congratulations to evergreen Cowbridge trainer Bryn Palling w

TENNIS TALENT SEARCH

A CAMPAIGN to get more young people playing tennis is being launched by Barry Tennis Club.

Young tennis players are invited to junior coaching lessons starting with an open day on Sunday March 7, at Barry Athletic Club, Paget Road, on Barry Island.

To encourage young talent, Barry Tennis Club is offering a range of coaching programmes for players from five years upwards with the club's professional LTA-licensed coach.

A number of junior tournaments will also be run throughout the year.

For further details contact Harry Morgan on 01446 412976 or e mail: barrytennis@ntl-world.com, or visit the Club's web site at www.barrytennis.co.uk

CALLING ALL CLUB OFFICIALS!

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Email them to:
ggem@internet-today.co.uk
or post to the Editorial Department, The GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL

TAE KWON DO NEWS

RECENTLY, members of the Tae Kwon Do Schools run by Steve and Pat Tottle went to compete in the South Midlands Area Championships in Hereford.

The results were as follows: Bridgend's Jasmine Over took silver in the ladies black belt middleweight sparring.

From the Vale, Jessica Burt took silver in the girls yellow belt sparring and bronze in patterns, while Catrin Williams took silver in the girls blue belt sparring.

On Saturday, February 13, members of the Rhondda and Vale Tae Kwon Do took the long drive to north Wales to take part in the North Wales Inter-Club Challenge. There were about 400 competitors taking part in the event.

Two Vale entrants were Bethany Burt who took gold in blue belt girls sparring and silver in patterns, and Jessica Burt (bronze in yellow belt girls patterns).

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07 **07 JAGUAR X K convertible.** Zircon blue metallic with ivory sports leather interior, upgraded 20 inch setanta wheels, full colour satellite navigation, electric heated memory seats, cruise control, climate control, rear parking sensors, bluetooth phone prep, only 12,621 miles, fsh, 1 owner **£39,995**

06 **56 VOLVO XC90 2.4 D5 AWD (facelift) SE Geartronic AUTO.** In metallic silver with full black leather, colour satellite navigation, phone preparation, electric heated seats, climate control, parking sensors, 7 seats, only 58,722 miles **£19,995**

06 **56 BMW 2.0TD 320D SE 4-dr Saloon.** In Arctic grey with anthracite interior, automatic air con, upgraded alloy wheels, rear parking sensors, only 41,655 miles, fsh **£13,995**

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05 **05 MERCEDES Benz 1.8 SLK 200 Compressor Auto 2-dr Convertible** in Tellur silver, black leather interior, climate control, multi function steering wheel, CD, alloys, only 61,000 miles, fsh **£16,995**

05 **05 MERCEDES Benz M-Class 2.7 TD ML270 CDi Automatic 5-dr Station Wagon.** In Brilliant silver with Orion grey leather interior, climate control, Bluetooth phone prep, privacy glass, heated seats, rear parking sensors, only 52,975 miles **£15,995**

04 **54 MERCEDES Benz CL500 5 litre 2-dr Auto coupe.** In tanzanite blue with java leather interior with BOSE sound system, AMG body styling, electric sunroof, only 48,245 miles **£19,995**

01 **51 JAGUAR S-Type 3.0 V6 4-dr Saloon Automatic.** In Pacific blue with cashmere beige full leather interior, climate control, CD, electric seats, rear parking sensors, only 55,810 miles **£5,995**

SPORTS

06 **56 HONDA Civic 1.8i V-tec Type-S 3-dr Hatchback.** In alabaster silver with alcantara/suede interior, climate control, CD, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 24,405 miles **£10,495**

06 **06 VOLKSWAGEN Golf GT TDi 2.0 (140) 5-dr** in steel grey with dark interior, cd, dual climate control, cruise control, alloy wheels, electric mirrors, only 58,300 miles **£9,995**

06 **06 AUDI A3 1.9TDi Special Edition 3-Dr Hatchback.** In brilliant black with module black cloth interior, air con, CD, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, full Audi service history, one owner, only 55,390 miles **£9,495**

06 **06 FORD Focus 1.8TDCi Sport 5-dr Hatchback.** In panther black with dark flint interior, CD, air con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 55,315 miles **£7,495**

06 **55 TOYOTA Rav-4 2.2 D-4D T180 5-dr Station Wagon** in cadmium green with full Faro dark grey leather, colour touch screen satellite navigation, electric heated seats, blue tooth phone prep, cruise control, sunroof, dual climate control, rear parking sensors, only 50,730 miles **£14,995**

06 **55 AUDI A3 2.0T FSi 5-dr Sport Back** in Avus silver with matrix cloth interior. BOSE speaker system, 17 inch alloy wheels, front fogs, climate conrol, cd, only 39,280 miles **£11,995**

05 **05 MINI 1.6 Cooper S (Chilli Pack).** Black, black leather interior, a/c, alloys, cd, rear parking sensors, only 49,390 miles **£10,995**

04 **04 PORSCHE Carrera 3.6 Convertible** in lapis blue with metropole leather, bose speaker upgrade, starlight navigation, phone system, cruise control, trip computer, heated seats, sports exhaust systemm, full Porsche service history, hard top, only 42,761 miles **£29,995**

04 **54 VOLKSWAGEN Golf GTi 2.0T FSI (200ps) 3-dr.** In reflex silver with interlagos interior, climate control, traction control, tyre pressure monitor, trip computer, sports seats, alloy wheels, only 69,192 miles **£9,995**

04 **54 TOYOTA Celica 1.8 VVTi Premium Coupe.** In crystal silver with Montreal black leather interior, climate control, alloy wheels, immobiliser, deadlocks, alarm, CD, only 27,953 miles **£7,495**

04 **54 PEUGEOT 206 1.6 HDi 110bhp GTi 3-dr Hatchback.** In Sahara yellow with half anthracite leather/suede interior, digital air con, multi CD, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 22,755 miles **£6,995**

04 **54 MGTF 1.8 135 Convertible.** In ignition blue with anthracite Sebring interior, alloy wheels, cd player, alarm and immobiliser only 27,100 miles **£4,995**

04 **04 RENAULT Clio 182 Sport 3-dr Hatchback.** In met blue with half leather/suede interior, sports seats, traction control, cruise control, climate control, alloys, 6 cd auto changer, only 51,314 miles **£5,995**

04 **53 LAND ROVER Freelander 1.8S 3-Dr Hard Top.** In Bonatti grey with black dune interior, glass roof panels, air con, alarm, traction control system, only 54,460 miles **£5,495**

03 **53 MG TF 1.8 135bhp 2-door Convertible.** In starlight silver with black interior, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, CD, electric windows, only 30,845 miles **£4,495**

02 **52 VOLKSWAGEN Golf TDi (130) 5-dr Hatchback.** In Reflex silver with anthracite interior, alloy wheels, climate control, CD changer, only 68,990 miles **£5,995**

02 **02 MG ZS 2.5 180.** In anthracite black, with monaco ash interior with red inserts, alloy wheels, a/c, cd, colour coded bumpers, front fogs, alarm and immobiliser, only 62,310 miles **£2,995**

01 **Y AUDI TT Roadster 1.8T Quattro (225)** in met silver with full granite leather, 18" alloy wheels, heated seats, trip computer, cruise control + climate control, cd multi-changer with BOSE stereo upgrade, only 63,010 miles.. **£8,495**

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99 **T BMW Z3 1.9 2-dr Convertible.** In Green with green leather interior, colour coded bumpers, CD, alloy wheels, electric hood, only 51,300 miles **£5,995**

FAMILY

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06 **06 FORD Focus C-Max 2.0 TDCi Zetec 5-dr MPV** in tonic blue with dark flint interior, cd, air con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 31,000 miles **£7,995**

06 **06 FORD Focus 1.6 115 Sport 5-dr Hatchback.** In Aquarius blue with Humy flint interior, air con, alloy wheels, CD, colour coded bumpers, immobiliser, only 36,600 miles **£6,495**

05 **55 RENAULT Scenic 1.9dCi 130 FAP Expression 5-dr Hatchback.** In metallic blue with grey interior, 6 speed, CD, air con, body coloured bumpers, only 45,500 miles **£5,795**

05 **55 RENAULT Megane 1.6 16v Dynamique** in met platinum silver with ruche cloth interior, auto lights, auto wipers, air con, cd, clour coded bumpers, only 16,380 miles **£5,795**

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04 **04 TOYOTA Avensis 2.0 VVTi T-Spirit Auto 4-dr Saloon.** Silver fern, st moritz charcoal leather, map gps nav system, climate, cruise, electric seat adjustment, only 55,065 miles **£6,495**

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02 **52 NISSAN Almera 1.8 SVE 5-dr Hatchback.** In caterpillar green with grey tungsten cloth, cd, a/c, reversing sensors, colour coded bumpers, only 44,300 miles **£3,995**

02 **52 AUDI A4 1.9 TDi SE.** In denim blue with phoenix blue upholstery, climate control, cd, alloys, only 26,075 miles **£7,995**

01 **51 VOLKSWAGEN Golf S 1.4 5-dr Hatchback.** In blue with dark interior, air con, CD, colour coded bumpers, service history, only 54,500 miles **£3,795**

01 **Y BMW 3 Series 1.9i 316 4-dr Saloon.** In bright red with dark interior, electric windows, colour coded bumpers, driver and passenger airbags, only 49,125 miles **£4,295**

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07 **07 RENAULT Clio 1.5 DCi 68 Extreme Hatchback.** In black with anthracite interior, alloy wheels, cd, electric windows, remote central locking, alarm, immobiliser, only £35 per year road tax, 27,650 miles **£6,995**

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06 **56 BMW 2.0TD 320D SE 4-dr Saloon.** In Arctic grey with anthracite interior, automatic air con, upgraded alloy wheels, rear parking sensors, only 41,655 miles, fsh **£13,995**

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01 **51 VOLKSWAGEN Golf S 1.4 5-dr Hatchback.** In blue with dark interior, air con, CD, colour coded bumpers, service history, only 54,500 miles **£3,795**

04 **04 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Dynamique 5-dr Hatchback.** In Platinum silver with dark grey interior, sunroof, alloy wheels, CD, front fogs, only 37,700 miles **£4,495**

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05 54 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Expression 3-dr. Silver, met, 58k miles, rcl, pas, ew, cd **£4,475**
05 54 FORD Fiesta 1.25 Finesse 3-dr. Silver met, 50k miles, rcl, pas, ew, cd **£4,475**
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07 07 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Campus 5-dr, grey met, 39k miles, rcl, pas. ew, cd **£5,775**
06 06 VAUXHALL Agila 1.2 16v Enjoy 5dr. Met purple, 12k miles rcl,pas,ew,cd **£5,975**
07 07 FORD Fiesta 1.25 Style 3-dr, silver met, 39k miles, ew, pas, cd **£6,475**
07 07 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 Life (a/c) 3-dr, grey met, 26k miles, rcl, pas, cd, ew **£6,475**
07 07 CITROEN C3 1.4 Desire 5-dr. Met black, cd, a/c, pas, 12k miles **£6,975**
09 09 CITROEN 1.0 VTR 3-dr. Met black, 8k miles, rcl, pas, cw, cd **£7,475**

Family Cars

02 02 NISSAN Almera Twister 1.5 5-dr. Mint green met, 50k miles, rcl, pas, cd, ew **£3,475**
04 04 HONDA Jazz 1.4 DSI SE AUTO 5dr. Silver metallic, rcl,cd,ew, alloys **£3,975**
05 05 RENAULT Megane 1.4 Rush 3-dr Silver met, 53k miles, alloys, rcl, a/c, cd **£4,475**
07 07 FIAT Grande Punto 1.2 Dynamic 5dr. Met blue, e windows, rcl, 5k miles **£6,975**
07 07 FORD Mondeo TURBO DIESEL 2.0 TDCi 1x 5-dr. Black met, 34k miles, rcl, pas, ew, cd **£7,475**
05 05 FORD Mondeo 2.2 TDCi TURBO DIESEL Titanium 155. Black met, 45k miles, rcl, alloys, e/w, cd, a/c **£7,975**
07 07 PEUGEOT 307 Hdl 90SE TURBO DIESEL. Green/grey met, 38k miles, alloys, rcl, ew, cd, a/c **£7,975**

Sports & Executives

04 53 MGTF 1.8 135 CONVERTIBLE. Silver met, 31k miles, alloys, rcl, e/w, pas **£4,975**
04 54 RENAULT Megane 1.9 DCi 3dr (120bhp) Dynamique TURBO DIESEL. 60k miles, panoramic roof, rcl, a/c, e/w **£5,475**
03 52 PEUGEOT 206cc Convertible. Silver met, 38k miles, rcl, e/w, cd, 2 tone leather **£5,975**
05 54 VAUXHALL Vectra 1.9 CDTi SRI AUTO 5dr. Met blue, alloys, a/c, fsh **£5,975**
04 04 TOYOTA Celica VVTi. Met silver, 39k, S/H, sports pack, leather, sunroof, a/c **£7,475**
02 52 BMW 325ci Sport AUTO Coupe. Blue met, 72k miles, sand leather, alloys, a/c, rcl, cd **£7,975**
04 04 CHRYSLER Crossfire 3.2 V6 Coupe. Grey met, 21k miles, leather, NAV, cruise, heated seats **£8,975**
00 W PORSCHE 911 Carrera 4 Coupe AUTO. 75k miles, fsh, met purple, many extras inc 2 tone exhaust **£15,975**

Estates, MPVs and 4x4s

01 51 SUZUKI Jimny 1.3 JLX 4x4. Black met, 66k miles, alloys, cd, cl, e/w **£3,475**
04 04 DAEWOO Tacuma 1.6 Extra MPV. Silver met, 22k miles, rcl, ew, pas, roof rails **£3,475**
04 04 HYUNDAI Matrix 1.8 CDX MPV. Silver met, full leather, rcl, ew, cd **£3,975**
04 04 FORD Galaxy 2.4 AUTO Ghia MPV. Met silver, 90l miles, rcl, a/c, alloys, cd, cruise **£5,975**
04 54 BMW X5 3.0D AUTO Sport. Silver met, 104k, fsh, alloys, sat nav, cd, climate, full leather **£12,975**

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06 56 VAUXHALL Agila 1.2 Design 5dr. Silver met, **only 1,900 miles!** New £8,975 **Ours £5,975** **Saving £3,000**
06 56 RENAULT Megane 1.6 Dynamique 5dr. Met gold, **only 3200 miles!** New £14,336 **Ours £6,475** **Saving £7,861**
06 56 CITROEN C3 1.6 SX 5dr AUTO. Met blue, **only 5200 miles!** New £12,182 **Ours £6,475** **Saving £5,707**
06 56 FORD Fiesta 1.6 5dr Style Climate AUTO. **Only 2,300 miles!** New £11,275 **Ours £6,775** **Saving £4,500**
56 06 VAUXHALL Zafira 1.6 5dr Life (A/C) Blue met, **only 4,900 miles!** New £14,975 **Ours £6,975** **Saving £8,000**
06 56 VAUXHALL Astra 1.8 Life A/C AUTO 5dr. Panacotta, **only 4,900 miles** New £14,975 **Ours £6,975** **Saving £8,000**
06 56 FORD Fusion 1.6 Zetec Climate 5dr. Red met, **only 2.000 miles** New £12,475 **Ours £6,975** **Saving £5,500**
06 56 FORD Focus C-Max Zetec 2.0 AUTO 5dr. Met mintgreen, **only 4300 miles!** New £17,172 **Ours £6,975** **Saving £10,197**
06 56 NISSAN Micra 1.2 Sport 5dr. Grey met, **only 2,500 miles** New £11,475 **Ours £6,975** **Saving £4,500**
06 56 RENAULT Clio 1.6 Expression AUTO 5dr. Met blue, **only 1760 miles!** New £12,475 **Ours £6,975** **Saving £5,500**
06 56 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 5dr. Met black, **only 2500 miles!** New £10,975 **Ours £6,975** **Saving £4,000**
06 56 VAUXHALL Zafira 1.65 dr Life (A/C) Blue met, **only 1,500 miles** New £14,975 **Ours £7,475** **Saving £7,500**
06 06 RENAULT Grand Scenic 1.6 Dynamique. Red met, **only 4,500 miles!** New £16,795 **Ours £7,475** **Saving £9,000**
58 09 FORD Fusion 1.4 5dr Style AUTO. Red met, **only 1,000 miles!** New £11,275 **Ours £7,475** **Saving £3,500**
06 56 RENAULT Scenic 1.6 Dynamique AUTO. Gold met, **only 2,700 miles** New £16,975 **Ours £7,475** **Saving £9,500**
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08 58 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Expression 5dr. Blue met, **only 3,000 miles!** New £10,175 **Ours £7,975** **Saving £2,200**
09 58 VAUXHALL Meriva 1.4 Life (A/C). Silver met, **only 741 miles** New £12,975 **Ours £8,475** **Saving £4,500**
09 58 VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.2 5dr Hatch. Black met, **only 2,600 miles** New £10,475 **Ours £8,475** **Saving £2,000**
08 08 HONDA Jazz 1.4 5dr SE. Blue met, **only 4,800 miles!** New £11,475 **Ours £8,975** **Saving £2,500**
09 09 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 5dr Life. Silver met, **only 1,700 miles!** New £14,975 **Ours £9,475** **Saving £5,500**
09 09 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 5dr club AUTO. Silver met, **only 400 miles!** New £11,975 **Ours £9,475** **Saving £2,500**
09 09 CITROEN Berlingo 1.6 HDi 5dr VTR. Blue met, **only 2,200 miles!** New £12,475 **Ours £9,975** **Saving £2,500**
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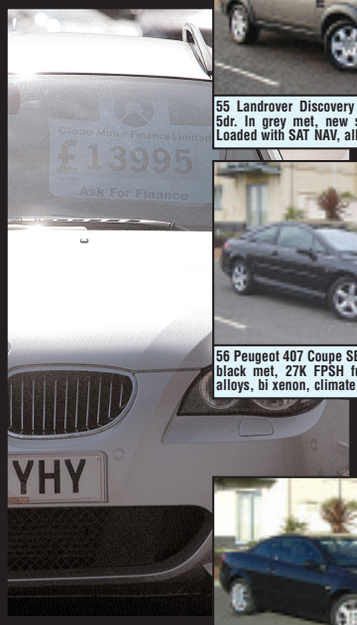

55 Landrover Discovery 3 2.7 TDV6 Auto 5dr. In grey met, new shape, ONLY 60k. Loaded with SAT NAV, alloys £20,995

57 Volkswagen Golf 3.2 5dr R32. In black pearl, ONLY 24k, FVWSH. Loaded, Vienna lthr Recaros, 18" alloys £17,995

05 BMW X3 2.0d M Sport 5dr (lthr). In silver met, ONLY 51k, FSH. DIESEL Sport with leather, climate a/c £13,995

07 Honda Civic 1.8 VTEC-I ACS Type-S GT. In black, rare GT model, 47k, FHSH. Loaded, 18" alloys, climate £11,995

56 Peugeot 407 Coupe SE+ Executive 2.2 in black met, 27K FPSH full nappa leather, alloys, bi xenon, climate, h/seats .£8,995

03 Audi TT 1.8 2dr 180PS (heated/lthr). In silver met, red leather, low mileage, 57k, FSH, H/seats, 18" factory £8,995

08 Toyota Yaris 1.0 TR 5dr in red met, ONLY 12k, NEW SHAPE. FTSH. In new cond, a/c, alloys £7,995

02 Mini Cooper S 1.6 Supercharged 3dr. In grey met, full leather, ONLY 28k miles, FSH, A/C Supercharged £7,495

05 Renault Megane CC Cabriolet 1.9 DCI Dynamique. In black, DIESEL, ONLY 45k miles. Loaded, a/c, alloys £7,495

07 Citroen Xsara Picasso 1.6 VTX HDI 5dr. In grey met, ONLY 47k, DIESEL, FSH. Electric windows, mirrors, air £6,995

07 Peugeot 207 1.4 Sport 5dr (a/c) in black met, NEW SHAPE, only 38k. FSH. Low insurance, alloys, a/c £6,995

05 Mercedes Benz A150 Classic SE 1.5 5dr NEW SHAPE in green met. Low ins and tax. Air con, e/w, pas, ASR £6,995

07 Seat Ibiza 1.4 Stylance 3dr. In silver met, NEW SHAPE, ONLY 13k, pas CD player, air con, electric windows £6,495

56 Peugeot 207 S 1.4 3dr (a/c) in lapis blue. Very low mileage. 19k, FSH, CD, a/c, e/w, PAS, Low insurance £5,995

54 Volkswagen Golf 2.0 S SDI 5dr (A/C) Diesel. Please feel free to contact our sales team on 01446 738088 . . . . . £5,995

55 Renault Scenic 1.4 16v Dynamique 5dr. In silver met. NEW SHAPE MPV. ONLY 33,000 FRSH. A/C, pas £5,495

05 Citroen Xsara Picasso Desire 2 1.6 5dr (a/c) in silver met, f/lift ONLY 38K FSH. Excellent cond, a/c, pas, e/w £4,995

05 Fiat Panda Eleganza 1.2 5dr. In blue met, NEW SHAPE, electric windows, remote locking, alloys, ONLY 19k .£4,995

04 Volkswagen Polo 1.2 Twist 3dr (a/c) in grey met, ONLY 53k FULL VW SERVICE HISTORY. Alloys, a/c, e/w £4,495

54 Ford Focus 1.8 Edge 3dr (a/c) Ltd Edition in imola blue met, ONLY 40k with FSH, alloys, a/c, e/w £4,495

04 Ford KA 1.3 3dr in ice green met, 2004 model, ONLY 65,000 miles. PAS . .£2,995

S Mazda MX-5 1.6 Convertible 2dr. In blue met, late shape, FSH, chrome roof bars, pas £2,995

52 Ford Ka 1.3 Luxury 3dr in black met, ONLY 61,000 miles in excellent cond. Full black leather, a/c £2,995

51 Renault Clio 1.2 8v Authentique 3dr in yellow met, ONLY 64,000 miles. Service history. 3dr, PAS, low ins £2,795

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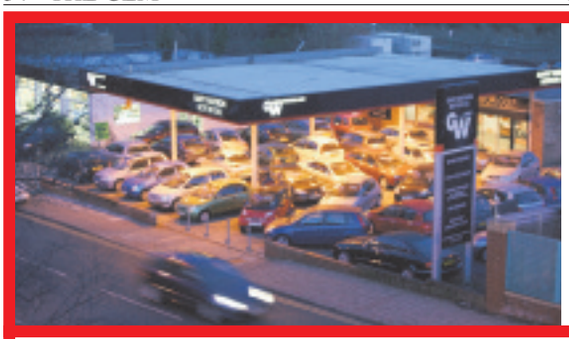

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04 MERCEDES SL55 AMG. In met silver with grey leather trim, 33,000 miles, panoramic roof, etc **£32,995**

02 LAND ROVER Freelander 1.8 GS 5-dr In met red with charcoal leather trim, low mileage local example at **£3,995**

54 CHRYSLER Voyager 2.5CRD SE in silver, 45.000 miles, diesel, 7-seater **£6,995**

06 FORD Ka 1.3 Collection in April green, 23,000 miles with decals . . . . . **REDUCED BY £800 TO £3,995**

04 DAEWOO Tacuma 1.6 Extra. In met red, 78,000 miles, with CD, alloys etc **£2,795**

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04	**MERCEDES SL55 AMG.** In met silver with grey leather trim, 33,000 miles, panoramic roof, command Bose etc.	**£32,995**
57	**BMW 320 Diesel M Sport Auto** In black with cream leather, 30,000 miles, 1 lady owner	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £19,495**
56	**BMW 335 Diesel SE Coupe Automatic.** In dolphin grey with black leather, 26,000 miles	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £19,495**
05	**MERCEDES CLK 220 CDi.** In silver with grey leather trim, 60,000 miles, usual refinements	**£14,695**
53	**JAGUAR XJ8 3.6 Automatic.** In silver with cream leather trim, 53,000 miles, luxury motoring at	**£11,995**
02	**MERCEDES S320 CDi Auto.** In light met blue with grey leather trim, 71,000 miles. Luxury diesel saloon at	**£10,995**
06	**MINI 1.6 Convertible.** In black, 35,000 miles, fun for the summer at	**£9,995**
03	**AUDI TT 180.** In met blue with black leather trim, 74,000 miles	**£8,995**
06	**MINI Cooper.** In met blue + white, 37,000 miles, 1 owner with chilli pack and climate	**REDUCED BY £800 TO £8,495**
54	**CHRYSLER Voyager 2.5CRD SE.** In silver, 45.000 miles, diesel, 7-seater	**£6,995**
05	**NISSAN Terrano II 2.7 TDi.** In gold over silver, 78,000 miles, diesel 7-seater 4x4	**£6,995**
V	**MERCEDES SLK 230 Auto.** In silver, full leather trim, 62,000 miles, stylish convertible at	**REDUCED BY £1000 TO £6,995**
05	**RENAULT Megane 1.6 Dynamique CC.** In silver, 43,000 miles, 4 seater convertible at	**£6,995**
02	**JAGUAR S Type 2.5 SE Auto.** Silver with black leather, low mileage, local car	**£5,995**
52	**PEUGEOT 206 CC 2.0 SE.** In silver with black leather trim, 57,000 miles, 4-seater convertible	**£4,995**
02	**TOYOTA Corolla T-Sport 3-dr.** In champagne metallic, 63,000 miles, 1 local owner, FSH	**£4,295**
52	**BMW 320 Diesel SE.** In steel blue with sat-nav, sports seats, high mileage hence	**£3,995**
02	**LAND ROVER Freelander 1.8 GS 5-Dr.** In met red with charcoal leather trim, low mileage, local example at	**£3,995**
Y	**PEUGEOT 206CC 2.0.** In silver, with black leather trim, low mileage local convertible	**REDUCED BY £1000 TO £3,995**
02	**MG ZT 2.5.** In silver with sports interior, looks and drives superb at	**£3,795**
Y	**VAUXHALL Astra 1.8 Convertible.** In red, 91,000 miles, 4 seat convertible at	**£3,295**

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06	**CITROEN C8 2.0 HDi SXi.** In turquoise met, 58,000 miles, 1 owner, fsh, diesel, 7 seater	**£7,995**
55	**HONDA Civic 1.6 Executive 5-dr.** In forest pearl silver with black leather trim, 35,000 miles, fsh	**£7,495**
56	**FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec Climate Automatic 3-dr.** In black, 12,000 miles, superb value at	**£6,995**
07	**FIAT Grande Punto 1.4 Dynamique Sport Automatic.** Met blue, 23,000 miles	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £6,495**
07	**RENAULT Clio 12 Expression 3-dr.** In steel blue, 33,000 miles with a/c, c/d, etc	**£6,495**
56	**SUZUKI Swift 1.5 GLX 5-dr.** In red, 32,000 miles with alloys, a/c, keyless go, etc	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £6,495**
56	**FORD Focus 1.4LX 5-dr.** In electric blue, 30,000 miles with a/c, cd, etc	**£6,495**
56	**VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 SXi 3-dr (new shape).** In black, 51,000 miles, stylish coupe at	**£6,495**
57	**PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Look 3-dr.** In diablo red, 24,000 miles, under manufacturer warranty	**REDUCED BY £300 TO £5,995**
56	**SUZUKI Swift 1.5 VVTi GLX 5-dr.** In silver, 31,000 miles with keyless go, alloys, etc	**£5,995**
55	**PEUGEOT 407 2.0 HDi SE.** In met grey, 51,000 miles, comfortable stylish diesel at	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £5,995**
55	**VW Golf 1.4 FSi 5-dr.** In electric blue, superb looking car, 18" alloys, low insurance	**REDUCED BY £1000 TO £5,995**
54	**RENAULT Megane VVTi Privilage Automatic 5-dr.** Met jade, half leather trim, low mileage	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £4,995**
05	**PEUGEOT 206 1.6 Quiksilver 3-dr.** 31,000 miles, sought-after limited edition model	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £4,995**
06	**CHEVROLET Kalos 1.4 Sport 3-dr.** In black, with black leather trim, 37,000 miles	**£4,695**
53	**Renault Clio 2.0 Sport 172.** In met black, high specification sports hatch	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £4,495**
03	**VAUXHALL Zafira 2.0 DTi Comfort. I**n silver, 73,000 miles, 7-seat diesel at	**£4,495**
04	**CITROEN C3 1.4 HDi Desire.** In silver, 61,000 miles with a/c, c/d etc	**£4,295**
04	**FORD Fiesta 1.4 Flame 3-dr.** In silver, 44,000 miles with alloys, cd, etc	**£4,295**
53	**FORD Fiesta 1.4 Flame 5-dr.** In silver, 49,000 miles, with a/c	**£4,295**
04	**RENAULT Megane 1.6 Expression 5-dr.** In black, 49,000 miles, family hatch	**£3,995**
06	**FORD Ka 1.3 Collection.** In April green, 23,000 miles with decals	**REDUCED BY £800 TO £3,995**
05	**VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 Twin Port SXi.** In met silver, 48,000 miles, 1 local owner	**REDUCED BY £1000 TO £3,995**
02	**VW Polo 1.4TDi SE 5-Dr.** In met blue, low mileage diesel at	**£3,995**
04	**PEUGEOT 307 1.4 5-dr.** In met grey with cd, e/w, c/l, alloys, privacy glass	**£3,795**
54	**CITROEN C2 1.1LX 3-dr.** In met red with cd, under 40,000 miles, low ins & road tax	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £3,495**
03	**RENAULT Clio 1.2 Expression 5-dr.** In met grey, low mileage local example at	**£3,495**
51	**SMART City Passion Soft touch.** In red and silver, 33,000 miles with full glass roof	**£3,295**
02	**FORD Mondeo 2.0 LX 5-Dr Automatic.** In champagne met, 53,000 miles	**£2,995**
04	**DAEWOO Tacuma 1.6 Extra.** In met red, 78,000 miles, with cd, alloys etc.	**£2,795**
52	**DAEWOO Tacuma 1.6 SX.** In met red, 66,000 miles, with cd, air con etc.	**£2,495**

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1.2 8v Duratec (69PS)

On The Road Price**	£6,895.00
24 Monthly Payments	£128.15
Deposit Allowance***	£450.00
Customer Deposit	£nil
Total Deposit	£450.00
Amount of Credit	£5,845.00
Total Charge for Credit (inc. £10 Purchase fee*)	£476.84
Total Amount Payable by the Customer	£6,718.84
GMFV (Optional Final Payment)	£3,876.00
Mileage per Annum	12000
Excess Mileage Charge	6p per mile

**includes £2,000 Ford/Government Scrappage Allowance and £1000 customer saving

Typical **4.9% APR**
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FordNew Fiesta Zetec
1.25 16v Duratec (82PS)

On The Road Price**	£10,395.00
24 Monthly Payments	£216.21
Deposit Allowance***	£450.00
Customer Deposit	£nil
Total Deposit	£450.00
Amount of Credit	£9,745.00
Total Charge for Credit (inc. £10 Purchase fee*)	£699.52
Total Amount Payable by the Customer	£9,454.52
GMFV (Optional Final Payment)	£5,515.00
Mileage per Annum	12000
Excess Mileage Charge	6p per mile

**includes £2,000 Ford/Government Scrappage Allowance and £2,550 customer saving

Typical **4.9% APR**
Freepost Ford Credit

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FordFocus Zetec
1.6 16v Petrol (100PS) Euro Stage IV

On The Road Price**	£12,295.00
24 Monthly Payments	£250.81
Deposit Allowance***	£1,500.00
Customer Deposit	£nil
Total Deposit	£1,500.00
Amount of Credit	£10,795.00
Total Charge for Credit (inc. £10 Purchase fee*)	£804.44
Total Amount Payable by the Customer	£11,599.44
GMFV (Optional Final Payment)	£5,580.00
Mileage per Annum	12000
Excess Mileage Charge	6p per mile

**includes £2,000 Ford/Government Scrappage Allowance and £3,950.00 customer saving

Typical **4.9% APR**
Freepost Ford Credit

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FordNew Fiesta Edge
1.25 Petrol (60PS)

On The Road Price**	£8,695.00
24 Monthly Payments	£161.22
Deposit Allowance***	£450.00
Customer Deposit	£nil
Total Deposit	£450.00
Amount of Credit	£8,245.00
Total Charge for Credit (inc. £10 Purchase fee*)	£661.28
Total Amount Payable by the Customer	£9,356.28
GMFV (Optional Final Payment)	£5,027.00
Mileage per Annum	12000
Excess Mileage Charge	6p per mile

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Typical **4.9% APR**
Freepost Ford Credit

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FordNew Ka Style +
1.2 8v Duratec (69PS)

On The Road Price**	£7,895.00
24 Monthly Payments	£156.41
Deposit Allowance***	£450.00
Customer Deposit	£nil
Total Deposit	£450.00
Amount of Credit	£7,445.00
Total Charge for Credit (inc. £10 Purchase fee*)	£584.84
Total Amount Payable by the Customer	£8,479.84
GMFV (Optional Final Payment)	£4,266.00
Mileage per Annum	12000
Excess Mileage Charge	6p per mile

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FordMondeo Zetec 5 door
2.0 Diesel TDCi 6sp

On The Road Price**	£15,995.00
24 Monthly Payments	£371.23
Deposit Allowance***	£1,000.00
Customer Deposit	£nil
Total Deposit	£1,000.00
Amount of Credit	£14,995.00
Total Charge for Credit (inc. £10 Purchase fee*)	£1,089.52
Total Amount Payable by the Customer	£16,094.52
GMFV (Optional Final Payment)	£7,175.00
Mileage per Annum	12000
Excess Mileage Charge	6p per mile

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GEM sport

Wales still need to learn that two swift halves are better than one!

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

IT wasn't that many moons ago when Wales had an unwelcome international reputation as '*the 40-minute team*', capable of a spirited, even brilliant first half display, but unable to maintain it for the full 80 minutes and guaranteed to fade long before the final whistle, as pressure and fitness issues told in the heat of battle.

With this current Welsh team, physical conditioning is no longer a problem, so it is ironic that the match trend now seems to be reversed – with a sluggish, lack-lustre first 40 minutes being followed by an all-action, edge-of-the-seat, second half fight-back that all too often comes far too late to win the day.

If only the old first half and the new second half could be fused into a complete 80-minute whole, what a joy that would be for the nail-bitten fans (as well as the equally frustrated Wales coaches!)

In the Six Nations opener, a belated burst of Welsh energy was not enough against a mediocre English side, that went on to only narrowly overcome world rugby minnows Italy.

Against the battling Scots, the habitual Welsh second half revival won through by the skin of their teeth (an exhilarating win put into sober focus by Scotland's demise in Rome at the weekend).

Against Grand Slam-hunting France at the Millennium Stadium on Friday evening, harsh reality again hit home in a 20-26 defeat that left Wales' remaining championship hopes in tatters.

In each case, Wales has generously allowed the opposition to take a substantial early lead, and then been forced into risk-taking, catch-up rugby, which though at times heroic and certainly entertaining, has had nerves a'jangling!

Whereas England had somehow held out, and Scotland had imploded within seconds of victory, there was never any real danger of a belated Welsh comeback fazing the impressively-focused title-favourites, once the latter had a 20-point first half cushion, courtesy of two gratefully-taken interception tries.

ABOVE: Bradley Davies, whose huge performance in the wake of personal tragedy was one of the Welsh highlights against France.
PICTURE COURTESY OF HUW EVANS AGENCY

The lesson, it seems, had still not been learnt; though in truth, that was not the whole story, for the root cause of Wales' current lack of success is glaringly obvious.

As head coach Warren Gatland himself put it on Saturday evening : "We are the architects of our own misfortune".

He was referring, of course, to his team's self-destructive tendency to scatter basic errors like confetti, aborting promising moves at the critical juncture, and gifting a clutch of soft points to opposing teams – who are then made to look far better than they really are.

Dropped passes, give-away interceptions and surprising defensive lapses (given the squad's strength in that department just a year ago), are some of the burning issues now being urgently addressed.

The real pity is that this is a genuinely-talented Welsh team clearly simmering with potential, and flashes of brilliance give tantalising glimpses of great things to come...

...If only they can sort out the errors in execution and put two equal halves together, rather than persistently giving opponents a 20-point headstart and attempting to overhaul them as the clock winds down!

Even so, the time surely cannot be too far distant when this still-developing young squad finally gels, and all the parts come together in a smoothly composite whole.

Maybe that could even happen before the end of this year's Six Nations – and with Italy and Ireland to come, who knows?

What a morale booster that would be to Welsh preparations for the Rugby World Cup.

ABOVE: Shane Williams, who broke Gareth Edwards' Championship try-scoring record with his last-minute touchdown, collects a high ball as Martyn Williams looks on.
PICTURE COURTESY OF HUW EVANS AGENCY

Squash teams are consistent – but not in a good way!

WEEK six of the regional and county squash leagues saw all three Cowbridge teams suffer 1-4 defeats.

Cowbridge A Bar 44 headed east to Rodney Parade, home of the improving Newport F team. Richard Ford at No 5 looked to be on his way to a victory in his continued comeback from injury but, having taken a 2-0 lead (9-7, 9-7) he faltered in the third game and narrowly lost a tie-break game in the fourth before 'blobbing out' in the fifth against the ever-green Geoff Trenchard.

This disappointment was compounded at No 4, with Niall Sloan having to retire with a groin strain after narrowly losing the the first game 7-9.

Matters did not improve much with both Garfield Leask and Jon Bisson both going 0-1 down in the early stages of their respective matches.

There were glimmers of a recovery when Leask pulled back the second 9-4, but he eventually went down 1-3 in a tie-break fourth game. Bisson however ground down his opponent to post a 3-1 victory.

It was A team captain Nick Guard's job to try to restore some pride and salvage some points from the match. The previously unbeaten No 1 managed two points for the cause in losing a keenly fought contest 7-9 in the fifth (match score 8-18 to Newport including bonus points).

Russ Watts' B team Bar 44 provided a 'warm welcome' to top-of-the-table Old Penarthians to the Cowbridge Athletic Ground Courts.

The venue was never a fond destination for opposing teams, with the courts being reknowned on the circuit for their more than cool playing conditions – all this has changed due to the recent completion of the roof insulation project.

The Penarth team brought a father and son combo playing No 4 and 5 respectively, but with a huge difference in playing experience. The Cowbridge No 5 and skipper Watts dispatched the raw Blackmore junior (Ceri) 3-0, while Colin Baxter at No 4 lost the first two games narrowly (7-9, 8-10) to father Gary Blackmore, before giving himself a fighting chance, levelling at 2-2. He eventually ran out of steam in the fifth, despite nosing in front 6-5 at one stage.

Julian Jenkins made a bright opening to his match at No 3, taking a 5-1 lead in the first game but seemed to lose his way and ended the evening with nothing to show for his efforts.

Chris Ranger, also having to play up the team order, found a nil return at No 2 to former Cowbridge player Paul Graddon.

At No 1, Simon Payne took on former Barry and Caerphilly player Ray Thomas and, while looking strong taking the third 9-1 to go 2-1 up, could not capitalise on this platform (match score 8-16).

Meanwhile, Cowbridge C went to second-placed Llanishen B, looking for their first victory in South Glamorgan Division Two.

Following a very strong start by Phil Matthews, winning easily at No 5 (only dropping eight points), none of his team mates could match his efforts.

Tony Steele at No 4 came closest but lost out 2-3 in a roller coaster match. Dave Mathews and Hugh Wallace managed to pull one game back after both finding themselves 0-2 down, before both losing out 1-3.

C team skipper Colin Giles put in a monumental effort but for no reward at No 1, losing a very hard fought 0-3 (7-9, 7-9 9-10).

This latest defeat (7-16) finds the Cs floundering at the foot of Division Two, 13 points adrift and having played more games, but there are still four matches left to try to get out of relegation trouble!

This week's fixtures sees the As host the top of the table clash with Caldicot B (Thursday) while the B team travel to Barry Leisure and the Cs welcome David Lloyd C.

Cowbridge Squash club has undergone some 'Spring cleaning' as well as the new roof insulation with the introduction of new fitness machines, furniture and tele-visual equipment – certainly a better environment in which to enjoy squash. The club welcomes new members of all ages and ability – the re-introduction of the internal club leagues and a thriving juniors section exist to support this.

For more information: e-mail russ.watts@btopenworld or call Club Chairman Clive Prigg 01446 773729 - email clive.prigg@btinternet

RUSS WATTS

Cowbridge rider heads the jockeys 'league'

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

COWBRIDGE'S James Tudor went to the head of the point-to-point riders winners' list when landing division two of the restricted race on *Cousin John* – his 10th winner of the season – at the Army meeting at Larkhill on Saturday.

Ogmore's Nick Williams had earlier won the first division on *Garton King*.

Welsh champion Rhys Hughes, assistant trainer to Aberthin's Tim Vaughan, landed a double at the Carmarthenshire Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases when winning the members' race on *Pelennor* and the mares maiden race on *Princess De Rome*.

Odds-on favourite *Pelennor*, owned by Bridgend's Carl Pyne, won by 20 lengths from *Pussigny,* and *Princess De Rome* got home by three-quarters of a length from the pace-making *Bunny McDougall*.

Hughes, who could be retiring at the end of the season, might well have made it a hat-trick but for his mount, the odds-on favourite *Overlut*, running out at the fifth fence in the men's open race won by *Makena*.

Makena's rider John Mathias was also successful on *Oca De Thaix* (intermediate) and *Rith Bob* (restricted).

Bridgend's Fiona William-Jones had a nasty fall from the Llangeinor mare *Twilight Dancer* when going well in the ladies' open race, won by *Warsaw Pact*.

The Curre & Llangibby point-to-point was rained off last weekend and will now be held on March 14.

This coming Saturday, the Brecon & Talybont will take place at Llanfrynach, first race 1pm.

Rugby club 'adopts' armed forces charity

LLANTWIT MAJOR rugby club is to start a fundraising drive to help an Armed Forces charity.

A club spokesman said: "Llantwit Major RFC has always had a strong connection with the RAF St Athan base, with many playing rugby for the club.

"Volunteers have also helped out with coaching at the mini and junior levels."

He continued: "With this in mind, Llantwit Major RFC is proud and honoured to be involved with these guys and has agreed to have the 'Help for Heroes' as our adopted charity, and to try raise as much money as we can."

The first event is a live band night on Friday, March 19. Tickets are £5 from behind the bar and there are also collection pots in the bars.

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